
















European Commission Webinar “Tackling the Scale-up Gap” 05 Oct 2021

Programme participant bios





	<p>Anna Panagopoulou is Director of ‘European Research Area & Innovation’ at the Research and Innovation Directorate General of the European Commission. She is responsible together with her teams to co-create with Member States and stakeholders policies to shape a globally competitive European research and innovation system that is open, performant, cohesive and conducive to transformative innovation for a sustainable future. She has been working in the Commission in various policy and management roles for 24 years. She holds a master degree in electrical engineering and has a long professional experience in private and public sector.</p>
	<p>Mariya Gabriel is the European Commissioner for Innovation, Research, Culture, Education and Youth. Under her leadership, the new Horizon Europe, Erasmus+, and the cultural strand of Creative Europe programmes (2021-2027) will be defined and implemented. Between 2017 and 2019, Mariya Gabriel was European Commissioner for Digital Economy and Society. She proposed the new Digital Europe programme, worked on an EU Strategy for AI, online disinformation, cybersecurity and launched the EuroHPC strategy. She has extensively engaged with external EU partners to enhance digital cooperation, in particular with the Western Balkans and Africa. She was elected a Member of the European Parliament in 2009, 2014 and 2019. Mariya Gabriel is First Vice-President of the European People's Party (EPP), and, since 2012, Vice-President of EPP Women. Commissioner Gabriel is a board member of the United Nations youth programme Generation Unlimited (GenU). She is ranked among the 50 most influential women in Europe in the field of cybersecurity by the leading European cybersecurity magazine SC Media UK (2019). Mariya Gabriel is also known for her involvement in the fight for gender equality. Among others, she received the prestigious Italian prize “Golden Apple”. In the European Parliament, she was twice awarded “MEP of the year” - in 2016 for the category “Development”, and in 2013 for the category “Gender Equality”. In November 2020, Commissioner Gabriel received the Annual Award of the Vienna Economic Forum “Partner of the Year 2020”</p>
	<p>Mikel Landabaso has worked in the European Commission since 1990. He has been Director of Growth & Innovation in the Joint Research Centre in Seville since December 2019. Previously, he was: Director of Strategy and Corporate Communication in DG Communication 2016-19; acting Director for Inclusive growth, Urban and Territorial development in DG Regional Policy and Head of Cabinet of Commissioner for Regional Policy 2014-15. From 1986-1990, he was Head of the Research Department and Assistant to the Director General of the Basque Regional Development Agency. He has a PhD (1994) and Bachelor's degree (1983) in Economics from the University of the Basque Country 1994), an M.A. in Development Economics (University of East Anglia 1984), a Diploma in Advanced European Studies (College of Europe 1986). He was part-time lecturer at the Free University of Brussels 2000-7, the University of Deusto 1988-1990 and the Basque Public University 1987-88 and a Visiting Scholar at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill (2000).</p>
	<p>Annalisa Ferrando is Senior Lead Economist at the Capital Markets/Financial Structure division at the European Central Bank. Previously she worked at the Research Department of the Bank of Italy and at the European Commission, DG-Enterprise. She has also been a visiting Advisor at the European Investment Bank. She holds an MPhil in Economics from Oxford University. Her current research interests lie in firms' financial decisions with a focus on small and medium enterprises and financing constraints. She is also an expert on firm-level surveys. In these fields, she has published several journal articles and working papers.</p>





	<p>Joseph A. McCahery is Professor of International Economic Law at Tilburg University Law School and a research associate of ECGI. His research interests and main publications fall in the areas of investment regulation and financial markets. Some of his research shows the effect of financial regulatory reforms on the capacity of SMEs to access external financing. His work has been published in various academic journals, such as the Journal of Finance, the Journal of Corporate Finance, the Journal of International Business Studies and the Journal of Management and Governance. Recent interests include the impact of ESG for private equity firms, and the influence of ESG ratings on firms' disclosure policies and performance.</p>
	<p>Armin Schwenbacher is full professor of finance at SKEMA Business School since 2010. He previously worked at the Université Lille 2 (France), Louvain School of Management (Université catholique de Louvain, Belgium) and Universiteit van Amsterdam (the Netherlands), and as guest lecturer at Duisenberg School of Finance (the Netherlands), Rotterdam School of Management (the Netherlands) and the European School of Management and Technology (Germany). He obtained his PhD in 2003 at the University of Namur (Belgium) on exit strategies of venture capital funds. He was a visiting scholar at the Haas School of Business (UC Berkeley, USA) in 2001-2002 and visiting professor at Schulich School of Business (York University, Canada) in 2014-2015. Armin currently teaches courses in entrepreneurial finance and fintech. He has presented his research on crowdfunding, venture capital and various other topics in corporate finance at many universities, financial institutions and international conferences, and his work has been published in several international academic journals.</p>
	<p>Julie Ferrari is a passionate advocate for innovation with purpose. As Data Policy Platform Curator and former Global Leadership Fellow at the World Economic Forum, she has led complex, multi-stakeholder initiatives including the Digital Europe Initiative and Digital Leaders of Europe community; projects for the Technology Governance: Data Policy, Future of Urban Development, and Future of Advanced Manufacturing Platforms; and the Global Future Councils on Cities (2017-18) and Entrepreneurship (2019). Previous to the Forum, she has over a decade of experience in strategy, operations, and project management across telecoms, financial services, and academia. Julie holds an MBA from INSEAD Business School, dual BA in Economics and Psychology from Northwestern University, and a PMP certification from the Project Management Institute. She is currently based in Madrid, Spain.</p>
	<p>Karoline Hallmeyer is manager in the climate strategy team at PwC Germany, and an Alumni Board Member of the MA program in Climate Society at the Columbia Climate School, from which she graduated in 2015. Karoline has more than six years of experience working in climate finance, climate strategies, market transformation, and innovation finance. After designing financial instruments to catalyze sustainable investment in emerging markets at Climate Policy Initiative, she gathered experience at KPMG, where she completed a secondment to the World Economic Forum, authoring the report "Bridging the Gap in European Scale-up Funding: The Green Imperative in an Unprecedented Time". At PwC, Karoline works on net zero strategies and climate risk scenario analysis projects for asset managers, banks, and insurances.</p>
	<p>Gordon Murray is Professor Emeritus in Management (Entrepreneurship) at the University of Exeter Business School. Former academic positions include being a full-time faculty member of both Warwick and London Business Schools. Long-term research interests include: public policy support for high potential and innovative young firms; how national venture capital (VC) industries have evolved over time; the role of government policy actions in VC and Business Angel (BA) industry development; entrepreneurship policy formation; the identification and support of high growth young firms and the genesis, growth and internationalisation of new technology-based firms.</p>

	<p>Martina Lawless is a Research Professor at the Economic and Social Research Institute (ESRI). Before joining the ESRI, she received her doctorate from Trinity College Dublin and worked as a research economist at the Central Bank of Ireland. Her research has focused primarily on firm-level dynamics and decision making, covering a range of topics such as access to finance for small and medium firms, effects of taxation and participation in exporting. More recently, she has investigated the potential effects of Brexit and COVID-19 on firms in Ireland. Her work has been published in a number of leading international academic and policy journals. From 2017 to 2020, she was a member of the Irish Fiscal Advisory Council.</p>
	<p>Monika Wieczorek-Kosmala is an Associate Professor and Researcher at the University of Economics in Katowice (Poland). Her research interests and expertise merge risk management and financial management, with a special interest in the buffering role of financial slack, capital structure optimization, and the emphasis on the specifics of SMEs position within these aspects. She is a member of the Committee of European Risk Research Network. She gained professional experience in risk management and property insurance as an insurance broker.</p>
	<p>Marie Wall start-up director at the Swedish Ministry of Enterprise and Innovation, is the bridge between the ministry and the start-up community and has in this role a broad portfolio that covers all different aspects of start-up and scale-up support, from financing to competence and ecosystem building. She is also the advisor to Nordic Innovation regarding how to strengthen support to scale-up. She has a background from the early start-up community, and has worked for companies such as Everyday.com (one of the first portals in Sweden), Sendit (mobile internet company, bought by Microsoft), Cypak (printed electronics), Bosieboo (business to consumer) and Speedventure (venture capital). She has experience from Silicon Valley as a technical attaché and as a visiting scholar at Stanford University. Before joining the Ministry she was responsible for the national incubation programme at the Swedish Governmental Agency for Innovation (Vinnova). She has an MSc in computer science from the Royal Institute of Technology (KTH) in Stockholm.</p>
	<p>Jean-David Malo is the Director of the European Innovation Council (EIC) and SME Executive Agency (EISMEA) since April 2021. In 2019 following the European Council's request to set up the European Innovation Council (EIC), he became Director of the EIC Task Force. Director for Open Innovation and Open Science in 2017, he designed and expanded initiatives such as the VentureEU Initiative and the RDI dimension under the European Fund for Strategic Investments (EFSI) among other things. Jean-David Malo became Head of Unit in charge of regional aspects in DG R&I (2006-2010) and of the unit (2011-2013) in charge of increasing private finance and closing market gaps by expanding existing EU innovative financial instruments (see RSFF) and by developing new ones in the fields of debt (including guarantees) and equity financing (InnovFin). Horizon 2020 SMEs was also addressed by the unit (i.e. EUROSTARS II, SME Instrument and the Fast Track to Innovation).</p>
	<p>Xabier Goenaga Beldarrain is Head of the Knowledge for Finance, Innovation and Growth Unit at the Joint Research Centre of the European Commission. The Unit he leads represents the JRC in European Semester country teams responsible for identifying policy challenges of the EU Member States as well as for assessing and monitoring their Recovery and Resilience Plans. His team assesses trends at Member State level regarding productivity and high growth enterprises, as well as EU vulnerabilities in global value chains. It evaluates the economic and labour market impacts of a number of EU programmes at regional level and publishes yearly the global Industrial R&D Scoreboard. It also monitors and assesses industrial, trade and innovation developments in China vis-à-vis the EU. He graduated from the Basque Country University in 1982, holds a PhD in chemical engineering from the University of Wales and a Master degree in Public administration from the École Solvay in Brussels.</p>

	<p>Giorgio Chiarion Casoni is Director for InvestEU and financial institutions in the European Commission's Directorate General for Economic and Financial Affairs. His professional career at the European Commission has involved managing financial programmes in support of SMEs, and coordination of the activities of the European Commission with the European Investment Bank (EIB), the European Investment Fund, the European Bank for Reconstruction and Development and other IFIs.</p>
	<p>Keith Sequeira is head of the governance and coordination unit of the European Innovation Council (EIC) and SME Executive Agency, responsible for the EIC Board and strategy. From 2016 to 2020, Keith was senior advisor to Carlos Moedas, European Commissioner for research and innovation, on open science and open innovation, including Horizon Europe, scientific advice to policy, the European Innovation council and the European Research Council. He was previously in the Cabinet of the Commissioner Máire Geoghegan-Quinn and has worked in the European Commission extensively on the development and implementation of EU research and innovation programmes and policies. He has previous experience in the UK government and private sector. Keith studied physics at Cambridge University and has a doctoral degree in innovation studies from the Science Policy Research Unit (SPRU) at the Sussex University.</p>
	<p>Rudy Aernoudt is an experienced Professor of Corporate Finance and European policy and has outstanding International and European experience (MIT, OECD, European Commission, European Council and European Social and Economic Committee). Uniquely, he has occupied Chief of Staff (Director of Cabinet) positions at different governance levels (Europe, Belgium, Flanders, Wallonia). He served in the Belgian government as Secretary-General for Economy, Science and Innovation, was director-general of OLPC (one laptop per child, spinoff MIT) and curator TEDx Brussels. Actually, he is professor at the universities of Ghent and Nancy and senior economist at the European Commission dealing with space economics, enterprise and entrepreneurship, financing of enterprises and industrial policy. He holds Masters (triple cum laude) in Thomistic Philosophy (University of Leuven), in Industrial and Monetary Economy (University of Leuven) and in European economy (college of Europe).</p>
	<p>Helen Köpman is Deputy Head of Unit for Digital Innovation & Blockchain, at DG Communications Networks, Content and Technology at the European Commission in Brussels. The unit elaborates policy initiatives under the Digital single Market to support digital innovation, blockchain and growth of startups and include Startup Europe, ICT standardisation and Innovation Procurement. The unit leads along with DG FISMA, the European Commission Task Force on Financial Technology. Previously, she was Deputy Head of Unit, managing Community supported research and innovation in the area of ICT applied to mobility. She also worked as program officer in the area of International Scientific Cooperation. She has a M.Sc. in Applied Physics and Electrical Engineering, from the University of Linköping, Sweden. She joined the European Commission in 2003 after a thorough industrial experience in the management of ICT service development in international companies that include Infonet, AT&T Unisource and Cap Gemini.</p>
	<p>Sara Dagostini is a Policy Officer in DG Regional and Urban Policy, in the unit responsible for financial advisory. She provides horizontal support about financial instruments and financial intermediaries to colleagues and national authorities. She has joined the European Commission in 2013, at first in DG CNECT as a financial officer. Since 2015 to 2019, she has worked as Senior Expert for the Single Resolution Board, responsible for resolution of European banks in financial distress. Before joining the EU institutions, she has gained a pluri-decennial work experience in the private sector, in the field of banking and financial markets, with a special focus on financial services.</p>

	<p>Mariano Silveyra is VP of Public Affairs at Cabify. The Spanish company started operations in 2011 and is a multimobility technology platform providing safety and quality services to millions of users in more than 130 cities in Spain and Latam. Cabify is facing a huge growth combined with an economically, socially and environmentally sustainable strategy to transform and improve the bright life of the cities. Before Cabify, Mariano was the Country Manager from Spain at Globant (GLOB:NYSE), a very disruptive software development company with more than 8.000 employees, US and Europe as main markets, and clients as Google, LinkedIn, Disney or BBVA among others from Fortune 500 list. He had previously worked more than 16 years in the global retail sector leading operations, marketing and sales among other challenges. Mariano has an Aeronautical Engineering degree from Universidad Nacional de la Plata, Argentina, and he has also an Executive MBA degree from IAE Business School.</p>
	<p>Jan Bormans Ph.D., MBA, has been active in the fields of innovation and entrepreneurship for more than 20 years. Jan's roles included strategy advisor at the world leading IMEC nanotechnology research centre and valorisation manager of the Flanders DC/Vlerick Business School knowledge centre. He has been actively involved in various start-up initiatives such as Start it @KBC and startups.be since 2010. From 2019 on, Jan is the CEO of the European Startup Network. Jan also performs the secretariat functions for the 'leading independent startup ecosystem leaders' group, first called upon by Commissioner Gabriel, aiming to significantly increase the number of unicorns in Europe.</p>
	<p>Kinga Stanislawska is Founder of Experi VC and of European Women in VC. She has been working in investments, banking and finance for 20 years. She is member of the IC at EIC Fund. She is on the boards of Tylko, Kliniki.pl and Ten Square Games. She was Vice President of the Polish PE/VC Association (PSIK) for 5 years and is active in supporting women led companies and funds.</p>
	<p>Benedikt Kronberger has been a partner at the venture capital firm 'btov Partners' since 2011 where he manages new and existing investments. He has worked in corporate development and in M&A for OMV and Rothschild. He also co-founded two start-ups. He studied International Business in Vienna, International Management at CEMS and International Development at Harvard's Kennedy School.</p>
	<p>Laurent Braun is in charge of business development at the European Investment Fund, where he leads investment or guarantee programmes the EIF manages on behalf of the European Commission, the European Investment Bank, or other large mandators. He has experience in private equity both as an LP at the EIF and as a GP in a large venture fund based in London. He has also extensive transaction experience from positions he held in EIB, where he helped restructure more than twenty large project finance transactions across Europe as part of the work-out team, and at Bertelsmann, where he co-led several M&A transactions in the media sector in both Europe and the US. Prior to that, he was a consultant for the Boston Consulting Group, where he worked on strategy and organization projects in the Benelux, France, Germany and Argentina. He holds an MBA from INSEAD and a commercial engineering degree from the Solvay Business School in Brussels.</p>

	<p>Anton Malkin is an Assistant Professor in the department of Global Studies at the Chinese University of Hong Kong, Shenzhen. His current research examines the impact of US-China technological rivalry on China's ICT firms, as well as the role of financial markets and intellectual property in China's economic development. From 2016 to 2020 Anton was a Research Fellow at Centre for International Governance Innovation (CIGI). From 2012 to 2013, Anton was a senior visiting scholar at the School of International Studies at Peking University. His Ph.D. thesis examined the role of foreign financial institutions in the transformation of China's financial markets and state-owned enterprises.</p>
	<p>Samuel J. Boyd Jr., Director of Program Development, joined the U.S. Small Business Administration, Investment Division on June 4, 2012 as the Director of the Office Program Development (OPD). In this role, Mr. Boyd is in charge of managing all SBIC program front end engagements with prospective SBIC applicants and institutional investors, to include pre-screening and advisory. He is also responsible for creating and executing SBIC's outreach strategy and ensuring it aligns with the agency's overall goals and objectives. OPD also assesses Management Assessment Questionnaires (MAQs) of SBIC applicants and prepares the applications for presentation to the SBIC Investment Committee. Mr. Boyd is a voting member of both the SBIC Investment and Licensing Committees. Immediately prior to joining the SBIC program, Mr. Boyd served as the President & CEO of the National Association of Investment Companies (NAIC), the private equity trade association for firms that represent or invest in the underserved market. Mr. Boyd has an MBA from the Darden Graduate School of Business at the University of Virginia and a BS in Civil Engineering from North Carolina A&T State University.</p>
	<p>Albert Medrán is the Director General of the High Commission for Spain Entrepreneurial Nation. Born in Sabadell (Barcelona) in 1984, he graduated with a BA in Political Science from Universitat Pompeu Fabra, and later from ICPS-Universitat Autònoma de Barcelona with a MA in Marketing and postgraduate studies in Policy Communication. From 2018 to 2020, he served as the Chief of Staff at the Secretariat of State for Digital Advancement of the Ministry of Economy and Business. He was also the State Representative on the Board of Trustees of the Barcelona Mobile World Capital Foundation, and a member of the Board of Directors of Red.es and Incibe. Mr. Medrán worked as the Communications Director at Actuable and Change.org from 2011 to 2017. Previously, he was a communications consultant at LLYC.</p>
	<p>Maja Tomanič Vidovič is a strategic leader for growth and development of entrepreneurship, SMEs, start-ups and scale-ups in Europe. She has a Master Degree in economics and business finance. She has a proven 14 years CEO track record of leading and managing a development fund for entrepreneurship with more than 80% of financial sources from EU cohesion and development funds, with strong international network for support policy for business sector and more than 20 years of successful management of wide support policies with active portfolio (loans, guarantees, venture capital, grants, networking, knowledge and mentoring support,...) in amount of €900 mio of balance sheet and 12.000 active projects in entrepreneur sector (SMEs, start ups, scale ups, deep tech, social companies, industry 4.0, society 5.0; including gender, social and environmental aspects,...).</p>

	<p>Philippe Huberdeau is Secretary General of Scale-Up Europe, an initiative launched by President Macron to activate new tech finance and accelerate the growth of European innovation. Passionate about international business development with an extensive track record in European affairs. Strong believer in the huge untapped potential in private-public co-operation to boost transnational trade, investment and innovation. Looking forward to bring Scale-Up Europe to the next level in the framework of the French Presidency of the EU in 2022. Previously, Philippe organized the G7 Summit in Biarritz in 2019. He also worked at the French foreign ministry as well as the European Commission, DG Trade. Philippe graduated from Ecole polytechnique.</p>
	<p>Jörg Goschin is Co-CEO and Senior Managing Director of KfW Capital. As a founder and an experienced investment professional, he has in-depth market knowledge and a close-knit network in the venture capital community. Previous stations of his career include Metzler, The Boston Consulting Group, BNP Paribas, Cerberus, Blackstone and Alstin. Jörg holds a PhD in finance and diploma in electrical engineering and economics. Together with Alexander Thees, he set-up and manages KfW Capital as Co-CEO.</p>
	<p>Anita Quas is a Senior Researcher of Corporate Finance at University of Milan since 2019. Anita obtained her PhD at Politecnico di Milano and has worked as Innovation and Policy consultant at Technopolis group, and as an associate professor at emlyon business school. She conducts research in the field of entrepreneurial finance and venture capital. Her area of expertise is governmental intervention in entrepreneurial finance and specifically governmental venture capital. She published her research in international peer reviewed journals including Entrepreneurship: Theory and Practice, Journal of Business Venturing, Small Business Economics, Research Policy. She is also a member of the EBAN Research and Innovation Advisory Board.</p>
	<p>Colin Mason is Professor of Entrepreneurship in the Adam Smith Business School, University of Glasgow. He has held visiting positions at universities in Canada, Australia, New Zealand and Argentina, University of Otago, University of Adelaide and University of South Australia. He has recently been appointed a Visiting Professor in the Faculty of Business Administration at Memorial University of Newfoundland (Canada). His research is on entrepreneurship and regional development with specific research focus on (i) entrepreneurial finance - specifically business angel investing - and (ii) entrepreneurial ecosystems. His research has a strong policy and practitioner focus and he has engaged with numerous external organizations and government, including Canada's National Angel Capital Association (NACO), HM Treasury, Scottish Government, European Commission, Eurochambres, InterTrade Ireland, Growth Analysis (Sweden) and OECD. He was joint winner of the ESRC's 2015 Outstanding Impact in Business award for his research (with Prof Richard Harrison) on business angels.</p>