



# European Innovation Council Fund

Investment Committee

The Investment Committee is established by the EIC Fund Board and has responsibility for making proposals to the Board on investments, follow-on investments and divestments, having regard to recommendations of the Adviser, the European Investment Bank.

The eight members of the EIC Fund Investment Committee (IC) have been proposed by the EU Commission Directorate-General for Research and Innovation, on recommendation of the EIC Pilot Advisory Board. The chairperson of the IC is a European Commission representative. The current members of the IC are independent experts and practitioners.

The composition of the EIC Fund Investment Committee is:

### **Nicklas Bergmann**



Nicklas Bergman has worked as an entrepreneur and deep tech investor since the early 1990s. He has built and invested in businesses in a variety of regions and economic climates and sectors ranging from industrial B2B and tourism to electron microscopy, nanomaterials, and ICT. Nicklas is a long-time member of the European start-up scene. With close to 25 deep tech investments in the past 20 years, his portfolio companies have gone out of business, awoken from the dead, conquered the world, been sold to major industry players, and listed on the stock exchange. A couple of years ago, he cleared his schedule and embarked on a journey to understand where technology is taking us. Today, he divides his time between technology investments, a couple of skunkworks projects, and speaking, writing, and advising on the future of technology, business, and society.

### **Kerstin Bock**



Kerstin is Co-Founder & CEO of Openers, a communications and community building agency based out of Berlin. She's also a founding member of Tech Open Air (TOA), one of Europe's leading tech festivals. Kerstin is an active mentor and advisor to several startup initiatives, VCs and early-stage startups. She serves as a member for the Digital Committee of IHK Berlin and in the Advisory Board of the European Innovation Council (EIC) as well as the Investment Committee of the EIC fund.

### **Martin Bruncko**



Martin Bruncko is a technology entrepreneur, executive, investor, and former senior public policy leader. He has extensive expertise in building transformational deep tech companies, as well as from top echelons of national and international policymaking in the areas of finance and innovations. He is the founder and managing partner of Steam Capital. Previously he was the founder and executive chairman of Neulogy, the first major advisory and investment boutique in Central and Eastern Europe focusing on R&D, innovations and deep tech start-ups. Martin also held several senior positions in the Government of Slovakia, including junior minister for innovations and deputy for European affairs of the minister of finance. He was also a Senior Director and Head of Europe at the World Economic Forum and a Board Member in the European Stability Mechanism (previously EFSF.) He is also the founder of the Druid Collective, a non-profit initiative of the World Economic Forum's Young Global Leaders (YGLs) and Technology Pioneers focused on helping exceptional start-ups around the world to bring breakthrough science from lab to impact.

Martin holds a B.A. from Stanford University and M.P.A. from Harvard Kennedy School.

### José Fernando



José Fernando is Chairman at Agrogarante MGS; Special Honorary Chairman at AECM and Coordinator at the Global Network of Guarantee Institutions, member of Invicta Angels; of the Advisory Board of AEP - Chamber of Commerce and of the OECD Working Party on SMEE. After spending more 2 decades launching and developing Guarantee, VC and other Financial Institutions, especially as co-founder of the Portuguese Mutual Guarantee Scheme, he is now serving as independent Advisor to the Board of several companies and dedicating more time to his consultancy firm Knowledge Factory and to the family's vineyard, also acting as speaker in international events. José started his career in the VC/PE industry and served as Board Director at the Portuguese SME agency IAPMEI. He was a member of the 3rd RT of Bankers and SME and of the group of experts that evaluated the RSFF.

José Fernando holds a degree in economics with the frequency of a master in industrial economics and was invited lecturer at Fernando Pessoa University and at the Porto Business Academy Master's.

### Laura Gonzalez Estefani



Laura is founder & CEO at TheVentureCity & General Partner of the Fund.

TheVentureCity is a new venture and growth acceleration model that helps diverse founders achieve global impact. Laura was an early employee at Facebook, worked for eBay and co-founded esplaya.con back in 2000. She is originally from Madrid, passionate about making the global entrepreneurial ecosystem more diverse, international and accessible to capital. She is an active member of Endeavor.

Mother of three children and proud dog owner. She founded TheVentureCity in 2017.

### Heidi Kakko



Heidi is Partner of the BaltCap Growth Fund.

Heidi has been contributing to building-up the early stage eco-system in Estonia – now one of the most successful start-up countries in Europe boosting the highest number of unicorns per capita – for more than a decade. She has helped to advance all stages of innovation funding – from prototyping as an expert jury of Prototron Foundation to the growth phase as a partner of BaltCap Growth Fund.

### Kinga Stanisławska



Kinga is Managing Partner and co-Founder of Experior VC.

Kinga has been active in venture capital and finance for the past 20 years with particular focus to develop the innovation and tech eco-systems of Central Europe and emerging economies. Kinga is the Vice President of the Management Board of the Polish Private Equity Association (PSIK). She is founder of European Women in VC platform which acts with a mission of uniting senior female investment professionals across venture capital in Europe and globally. As an independent board member, she represents pension funds and financial investors in Supervisory Boards of publicly listed technology companies.

## Chair: Stéphane Ouaki



Stéphane is the Head of Department in the European Innovation Council and SMEs Executive Agency.

Prior to that, he has been the Head of the Unit 'Financial Instruments' at the EIC Task Force (European Commission, DG Research and Innovation).

Before joining DG R&I, he was the Head of Unit for the Connecting Europe Facility and investment strategies in DG MOVE. Beforehand, he was Deputy Head of Cabinet of Commissioner Vladimír Špidla, responsible for employment, social affairs, and equal opportunities (2004-2010). Previously, he was part of the Commission's team negotiating with the Czech Republic its terms of accession to

the EU (2001-03), and then moved on to be part of the team coordinating the enlargement strategy (2003-04).