

# SYNBEE: EXPANDING SYNTHETIC BIOLOGY ENTREPRENEURIAL ECOSYSTEMS

(01/02/2023 – 31/01/2025)

15 partners (7 beneficiaries) Budget: 1M€ 24 months

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HORIZON-EIE-2022-SCALEUP-01-01\_Expanding Entrepreneurial Ecosystems

























SYN BEE











# Da Vinci Labs – leading deep tech incubator in the Centre-Val de Loire

Innovation at the service of the planet via a multi-disciplinary deep tech research center in Quantum technologies, Artificial Intelligence, & Synthetic Biology.

Since 2021: €37M of raised funding, 6 EC funded projects, 4 start-up investments.













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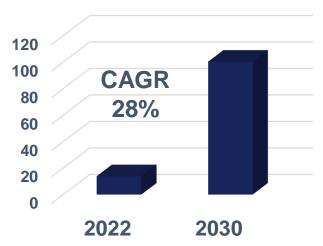


# (Synthetic) biology

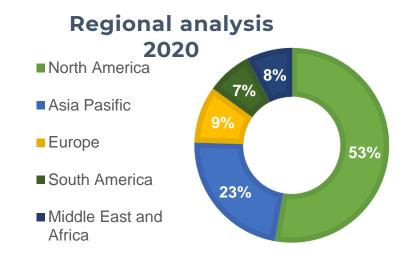
SynBio is a biological toolbox allowing to engineer living entities (cells, microbes, systems) as if they were made of blocks, switches, gates and circuits, enabling enhanced functions in a broad variety of applications

- ☐ SynBio is a key driver of bioeconomy: \$13T
- ☐ Investments in SynBio grew from \$1 bn in 2010, to \$36 bn in 2021
- ☐ SynBio is a key for multiple current challenges (health, food, energy, environment, manufacturing)

#### Global SynBio market size (USD Billion)



Source: CMI, 2022



Source: MAXIMIZE, 2020

#### Some key players

Thermo Fisher (US) Merck (US) Agilent (US) Novozymes (DK) Ginkgo (US) Amyris (US) Intrexon (US) GenScript (US) Moderna (US)

Twist Bioscience (US) Viridos (US) Codexis (US) Synthego (US) Creative Enzymes (JP) **Eurofins Scientific (LU)** Cyrus Biotech (US) ATUM (US) TeselaGen (US) Arzeda (US)

**DNAScript (FR)** 























Asimov (US)

Benchling (US)











## Challenges

Difficult to identify highly skilled transdisciplinary profiles to set up a strong SynBio team

Academic researchers do not naturally envision startup creation, due to lack of entrepreneurial experience

Fragmented market => Rare interaction academia industry / academia investors

Strongest SynBio science, but we can enhance exploitation in **Europe** 

































### **SYNBEE Consortium**





Startcodon

UK



**Potter Clarkson** 

UK



**London Biofoundry** 

UK



F6S

Ireland



**iGEM** 

France



**CEA (Commissariat à l'énergie** atomique et aux énergies alternatives)

France



Da Vinci Labs

France

**Toulouse White Biotechnology** (INRAE Transfert)

France



Finland



Biocatalyst Foundation Latvia



**Riga Technical University** Latvia



**Delft University of Technology** Netherlands



**German Association for Synthetic Biology** 

Germany



Max Planck Institute of **Biochemistry** 

Germany



**EUSynBioS** France



SAB:

Rodrigo Ledesma Amaro - ICL, UK Sven Panke - ETH Zurich, Switzerland







































### **SYNBEE strengths**



#### WHO WE ARE

15 key partners and broader EU SynBio from 25 European countries

Strong senior academia representatives (70+ ERC), young SynBio community via iGEM (6k students)

Key exploitation stakeholders: SMEs (>1,5m), accelerators, incubators, investors

Policy makers, economic development players

#### **RESOURCES AND TOOLS**

**Expertise** in SynBio, IP, fundraising, start-up, scale-up, BD, PR, etc.

Networks (SynCellEU: 250 members, Bioconnect: 30 members, IBISBA, F6S, EIT, BIOMOLMACS, MaxSynBio, Global Biofoundry Alliance: 14, Start Codon: 500+ pharma and biotech industry leaders, esteemed investors and mentors, iGEM industry alumni network, GASB: 150 members + EUSynBios, SynBioBeta, DECHEMA)

**Databases** (financial sources, academia, industry, patents)

Access to state-of-the-art infrastructure (Planet B.o., Bioprocess Pilot Facility, IBISBA, London Biofoundry, automated systems for cell-free prot expression, cutting edge optical tech, high-throughput equipment, etc.)

Established events (TWB Startup Day, Biocatalyst hackathons, RTU summer schools, StartCodon demo-days and showcases, iGEM industry talks, Women Entrepreneurship Bootcamp, SynBio World Café by GASB)



## **SYNBEE** work plan

#### WP 1 - Analysis

**Benchmark** of practices between developed and developing ecosystems

**SWOT** analysis per type of ecosystem (local presence of industry and or existing/absent links with SMEs and big industrial companies, existence of remote links, availability of financial resources to implement events, actions, staff placements, etc. risks: IP, cultural differences, regulatory differences, ethics, costs, regional specialization, etc. Opportunities

**Matrix of best practices** 



Workshops on business modelling, business planning

Preparation of financial landscape (public/private) + Watch unit: training + database of relevant calls, investors

Training courses on communication, preparation of pitch

**Outreach** activities training

**IT, AI** – related skills: e-courses?

**Mentoring** by the industry for students, CEOs



#### WP 3 - Application of acquired knowledge

Mapping of public/private SynBio community

Networking between students and industrial community at training sessions, events + on-line brokerage events (+plan of secondments, signature of framework agreements)

**Matchmaking** of students for missions at non-academic organisations (SMEs, big industrial companies, investors, consulting)

**Hackathons** to search solutions by students for the industry

Pitch contests to support/invest in SynBio projects



#### WP 4 - Involvement of the industry into the education process

**Mentoring** between Un-ties

Hosting students from all ecosystems in private organisations: physically and/or remotely

**Policy making** work (inclusion of good practices into education programmes: policy makers workshops, education institutions' workshops, white papers)

WP5 – Coordination, Management, Exploitation

WP6 - Communication, dissemination





































## **SWOT** analysis

#### June 2023 - October 2023:

- Questionnaires, Interviews
- SWOT draft

#### SWOT has pointed out to challenges beyond team building in Synthetic Biology:

- Palette of aspects related to Start-up creation (access to infrastructure, skills, advice, ...)
- Regulatory obstacles
- Access to public funding
- Access to private funding

#### **EIC x SYNBEE day**

- To validate SWOT outcomes
- To identify other challenges
- To brainstorm about solutions

#### **Expected impact:**

- Roadmap of actions
- Policy documents





































# Sharing existing resources

#### **Knowledge base on SYNBEE website**

- **Principles of Synthetic Biology**
- Engineering Life: Synbio, Bioethics & Public Policy
- Systems Biology and Biotechnology Specialization
- Introduction to Industrial Bioprocess Development
- Synthetic biology regulation in Europe: containment, release and beyond
- Modeling and Analysis of Synthetic Biology Systems with SimBiology and MATLAB
- Modeling for SynBio: from ODEs to Gene expression
- Introduction to Emerging Technologies Part 3. Analyze and Create Hypotheses for Synthetic Biology

- Project Finance: Funding Projects Successfully
- Scaling Product and Processes
- Capital-investissement et capital-risque
- Industrial biotechnology
- Intellectual Property for Entrepreneurs
- Effective Decision Making: Dealing with Business Complexity
- Creative Problem Solving and Decision making
- Big Data Strategies to Transform Your Business
- **Business Model Implementation**

#### Key resources identified at different institutions, including:



















Massachusetts Institute of Technology









































### From talented student/PI to Startup creation



Sept Jan Feb Oct Sep Oct Mar Apr May June July Aug Nov Nov 2025

#### **Identification** of

- **Projects**
- Teams who search for expertise
- Students, searching to join a team









- Market need
- Fundraising / VC
- Pitch
- BD
- Brandina
- Gender bias

#### Consolidation of a pitch

Match with investors / industry

> Hosting of the trained candidates by the industry /startups

Read~Write~Grow: European SynBio Hackathon





#### **Impact** monitoring

**Project** sustainability - cohort 2



I want to become mentor:





























































### Non-dilutive funding: Synthetic Biology landscape in Europe

#### UK champion track – record in SynBio support UK RI=> Synthetic Biology for Growth Programme, Synthetic Biology Leadership Council => 50M£ government capital investment back in 2012 + Since – regular support 1,37M£ capital invest - BBSRC 50,5M£ main funding bodies: BBSRC, EPSRC and MRC for academic research + Innovate UK for private (**Up to 10M£**) 93M£ - EPSRC SynBio portfolio (49 projects: 130k£ -12M£)) 102M£ - UKRI SynBio for Growth (2022) 70.5M£: 6 Multidisciplinary Synthetic Biology Research Centres (SBRCs) in Bristol, Nottingham **18M£** - focused on DNA synthesis 2M£ investments in targeted synbio training (Bristol, Oxford, Warwick, UCL) 10M£ capital fund - SynBio Seed Fund (since 2013) 20M£ - UK Research and Innovation (UKRI) and the Defense Science and Technology Laboratory allocate funds for Engineering biology 60M£ - UKRI (2024): Microbial Food Hub + Engineered Genetic Control Systems for Adva? Therapeutics Mission Hub + Preventing Plastic Pollution with Engineering Biology Hub + Glyco

France – ambitious France 2030 Plan = 34bn €
Biotherapies & Biomanufacturing - 800M€ budget

Ex. previously funded SynBio: TWB – 27M€. Thanaplast – 22M€.

SYNTHACS – 8M€. BIOIMPULSE – 28M€

Main funding soirces: ANR, Bpifrance, ADEME

Engineering Biology Mission Hub



**European Commission** Top-down calls, targeting SynBio: Cell & Gene therapy (EIC Path.2021) + 1-2 challenges: 132M€. Engineered Living Materials (EIC Path.): 132M€ Carbon dioxide & nitrogen management and valorisation, mid-long term, systems-integrated energy storage, cardiogenomics, healthcare continuum technologies, DNA data storage (EIC Path.'22) = 167M€ x + RNA therapies and diagnostics (EIC Trans.'22) = 60.5M€ Renewable energy, low carbon, en. storage (EIC Accel '21) = 495M€ Reducing greenhouse emission, carbon removals, climate, energy / clean electricity, sustainable aviation, cars, ships (EIC Accel.2022) = **537M€** Open (bottom-up) calls, available for SynBio: EIC Path. Open '21 = 168M€ / EIC Path. Open '22 = 183M€ EIC Trans. Open '21= 59.6M€ / EIC Trans. Open '22 = 131M€ EIC Accel. Open '21 = 592M€ / EIC Accel. Open '22 = 623M€ 2017 - 2022: Infrastructure IBISBA - 5M€ CSA SUPERBIO - 3.8M€. IPM-4-CITRUS - 0.8M€

Finland - SynBio Powerhouse
FinSynBio (Academy of Finland) call / year - 10M€+2M€

VTT gouv. funding: - 85M€/year

Business Finland grants (2020) bottom-up/focus on biomaterials,

carbon neutral tech: 653M€

9 ITNs MSCA in SynBio = 36M€

100 ERC "SynBio" ~**305M€** 

Germany – GASB – German Asso of SynBio BMBF thematic calls HepatoSys, QuantPro, SysMO + FORSYS: 4 excellence centers in SynBio, + RI – 158M€ BMBF - ERASysBio bi-lateral calls

Belgium - BeSynBio
Funding track: mainly bottom-up funding from
Innoviris, Wallonia Region (up to IM€). Strategic
focus on cell/gene therapy



# Non-dilutive funding database

Engineering and Physical S	EPSRC synthetic biology po	Grant	any (80% of costs)	On rolling basis	Bottom-up	You must have either: a Ph	UK
Alexander von Humboldt F	Humboldt Research Fellow	Scholarship	2670€/month + travel, fami	On rolling basis	Bottom-up	PhD +4 years max. Target: f	Germany
Engineering and Physical S	Manufacturing the future	Grant (80%)	3m£	On rolling basis	Bottom-up	3m£ each quarter	UK
Engineering and Physical S	EPSRC Overseas travel grant	Grant (80%)		On rolling basis	Bottom-up	funding for international tr	UK
Région IDF	Innov'up	Subsidy. Funding rate: 2	Up to 500K€ in sub. / up to	On rolling basis	Bottom-up	Bottom-up. Test de faisabili	France
Innovate UK, Arts and Hum	Knowledge Transfer Partner	Grant (50-70%)	100-200k£	On rolling basis	Bottom-up	Open to businesses or not	UK
Fritz Thyssen Foundation	Postdoc Stipends	Scholarship	2200€/month+ family allo	On rolling basis	Bottom-up	Humanities, social science	
Biotechnology and Biologic	BBSRC standard research g	Grant	Up to 2m£ (80%)	On rolling basis	Bottom-up	Eligible: higher education i	UK
German National Academy	Leopoldina Postdoc Schola	Scholarship	2000€/month + benefits +	On rolling basis	Bottom-up	PhD + 7 years max. Duratio	Germany
Engineering and Physical S	EPSRC working with overse	Grant (80-100%)	any (80% of costs)	On rolling basis	Bottom-up	to work with overseas rese	UK
Engineering and Physical S	EPSRC postdoctoral fellows	Grant	any (80% of costs)	On rolling basis	Bottom-up	energy, mathematical scien	UK
AID - AGENCE DE L'INNOV	RAPID (Régime d'APpui à l'	Subsidy. Funding rate d	tba	On rolling basis	Bottom-up	Innovation duale. Mono-pa	France
Bpifrance	Aide pour le développeme	Reimbursable advance o	3M€	On rolling basis	Bottom-up	la réalisation et la mise au	France
Innosuisse	Innovation project without	Grant	tba	On rolling basis	Bottom-up	Personnel and material cos	Switzerland
Bpifrance	Bourse French Tech	Bourse (70%)	30k€	On rolling basis	Bottom-up	Eligible: startups ou physic	France
Biotechnology and Biologic	BBSRC international travel	Grant	3k£	On rolling basis	Bottom-up	BBSRC funded researchers	UK
Engineering and Physical S	EPSRC programme grant	Grant (80%)	any (80% of costs)	On rolling basis	Bottom-up	Programme grants provide	UK
Alexander von Humboldt F	Georg Forster Research Fell	Scholarship	2670€/month + benefits	On rolling basis	Bottom-up	PhD +4 years max from de	Germany
German Research Foundati	Research Grant	Grant	10K€-50K€	On rolling basis	Bottom-up	3 years max, but you can a	Germany
Innosuisse	Innovation project	Grant (50%? + Swiss Inn	Unlimited?	On rolling basis	Bottom-up	Implementation partners: S	Switzerland
Bpifrance	Aide pour la faisabilité de l'	Subsidy or reimbursable	50K€ - 1M€	On rolling basis	Bottom-up	Eligibles: Etudes d'évaluati	France
Bpifrance	Diag Europe	Subsidy of 50% of the pr	10K€	On rolling basis	Bottom-up	Montage des projets EIC-A	France





























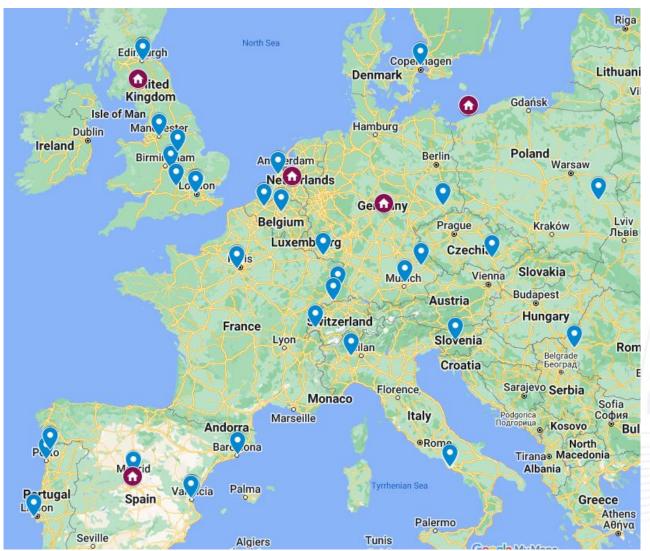








## **European SynBio Map(s)**



Associations and Societ	ies Academic V	,						
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Pinheiro Lab								
PI Name	Institution	City	Country	Is synthetic biology the ma	Main subject of the lab	Organisms	Topics	Additional short description of the lab
Vitor Pinheiro	KU Leuven	Leuven	België	Yes, SynBio is the main	Directed evolution, artificial nucl	E. coli	DNA synthesis or as	
Wallace Lab								
PI Name	Institution	City	Country	Is synthetic biology the ma	Main subject of the lab	Organisms	Topics	Additional short description of the lab
Stephen Wallace	Institute of Quantitativ	Edinburgh	United Kingdom	Yes, SynBio is the main	Sustainable chemical synthesis u	E. coli Pseud	omonas Environmental appli	We are a multidisciplinary resear.
Bacterial SynBio Lab	1							
PI Name	Institution	City	Country	Is synthetic biology the ma	Main subject of the lab	Organisms	Topics	Additional short description of the lab
Yolanda Schaerli	University of Lausanne	Lausanne	Switzerland	Yes, SynBio is the main	Bacterial Synthetic Biology	E. coli Other	Bacteria Design, characteriza	we are building and studying syr
Bioprogrammable N	Materials							
PI Name	Institution	City	Country	Is synthetic biology the ma	Main subject of the lab	Organisms	Topics	Additional short description of the lab
Shrikrishnan Sankaran	INM - Leibniz Institute	Saarbruecken	Germany	Yes, SynBio is the main	Engineering probiotic bacteria as	E. coli Other	Bacteria Design, characteriza	Bioprogrammable Materials expl
LBBS - Sustainable B	Bioprocesses and Biopr	oducts Laboratory						
PI Name	Institution	City	Country	Is synthetic biology the ma	Main subject of the lab	Organisms	Topics	Additional short description of the lab
Ligia Rodrigues	Universidade do Minh	4710-057 Braga	Portugal	Yes, SynBio is the main	Design and construction of artific	E. coli Bacillu	s Pse Mammalian synthet	Synthetic biology is an emergent

Date concreation	Institution name	Institution type (University, research institute, industry, SM v startup, policy maker, association)	Location	Description	Main topic (energy / cosmetics / consumable products / environment / generalist)	SynBic examples	Contact informatior v (email/phone)	Website 🔻
1945	3i Group	Investor	UK	3i is an international investment manager focus	ed on mid-market Private Equity, Inf	synbio amor	irteam@3i.com	www.3i.com
2000	AGORANOV	Incubator	France	Agoranov is a public Science & Tech incubator b	ased in Paris.	synbio amor	courrier@agoran	(www.agoranov.com/
2009	Almi Invest	Investor	Sweden	Almi Invest is a venture capital company that in	vests in Swedish companies with sca	synbio amor	maria.kessling@a	www.almi.se/Almi-Invest,
	Alter Equity	Investor	France		Impact investment		victoire.charlet@	https://www.alter-equity.
2010	Anthemis	Investor	UK	Anthemis Group is a global platform that cultiva	Impact investment			www.anthemis.com
	Aperam Ventures	Investor	Luxembourg	Aperam Ventures is a strategic investor who inv	Impact investment		christophe.pomp	http://www.aperam.com
2013	Aqua-Spark	Investor	Netherlands	Aqua-Spark is an investment fund with a focus of	Impact investment		info@aqua-spark	www.aqua-spark.nl
2022	Arctic Investment Group AS	Investor	Norway	Arctic Investment Group is a northern Norwegia	n investment company		eskild@ai-group.r	www.ai-group.no
1-Sep-12	Ascension	Investor	UK	Ascension is an early-stage VC built by exited en	trepreneurs to back the next genera	synbio amor	info@ascension.v	www.ascension.vc
	Astanor Ventures	Investor	Belgium	Food and Agritech Venture Capital investing in i	Impact investment		kanira@astanor.c	http://astanor.com
	Astarte Capital Partners	Investor	UK	Astarte is an asset management firm investing of	Impact investment		george.zamparas	http://www.astartecp.com
	Audacia	Investor	France	Blue biotechnology, renewable energy, ocean p	Impact investment		guentin.robert@a	https://www.audacia.fr/
2018	A-Ventures	Investor	South Korea	A Ventures is a venture capital investment firm.			stephane@a-vent	aven.vc
	b.value AG	Investor	Germany	As an early-stage deep tech investor, we promo	Impact investment		Marie.Kappen@b	http://www.bvalue.de
2000	Balderton Capital	Investor	UK	Balderton Capital is a venture capital investor th	at supports technology businesses.	synbio amor	inbound@baldert	www.balderton.com
2018	Bioinnovation Institute	Investor	Denmark	BioInnovation Institute is a biotechnology startu	ip that offers entrepreneurs and res	earchers in lif	cbt@bii.dk	
2021	Blue Pelican Capital	Investor	France	Blue Pelican Capital is supporting climate innova	Impact investment			bluepelicancapital.com
2016	Blue Yard Capital	Investor	Germany	BlueYard invests in founders with transforming i	ideas that decentralize markets and	empower hu	manity. Typically \$	1-3m as an initial investme
	BlueCrow Capital	Investor	Portugal	structuring and setting up investment and dives	Impact investment		ssi@bluecrowcap	https://www.bluecrowca
	BNP Paribas SA	Investor	France	Blue biotechnology, ocean pollution	Impact investment		Sylvain.taboni@b	http://Www.group.bnppa
	BOLD (L'Oréal)	Investor	France		Cosmetics, cosmeceuticals			https://www.lorealboldve
	Bonafide Wealth Management AG	Investor	Liechtenstein	We are one of the leading global asset manager	Impact investment		mb@bonafide-ltd	https://www.bonafide-ltd
31-Dec-12	Bpifrance	Investor	France	Bpifrance provides financial solutions for compa	nies that are booting up the listing	synbio amor	F3A@bpifrance.fr	bpifrance.fr
2-Feb-11	Business Growth Fund	Investor	UK	Business Growth Fund is an influential investor	in small and mid-sized businesses.	synbio amor	enquiries@busine	www.bgf.co.uk
1-Aug-10	Crowdcube	Financial services	UK	Crowdcube enables individuals to invest in small	companies in return for equity or a	synbio amor	info@crowdcube	.www.crowdcube.com/
1956	DWS Investment GmbH	Investor	Germany	DWS Investments is an asset management com-	Impact investment		info@dws.com	www.dws.de
1-Jul-97	Earlybird Venture Capital	Investor	Germany	Earlybird is a venture capital investor focused or	European technology innovators.	synbio amor	_	earlybird.com/
2004	EASME - EU Executive Agency for S	Gouv agency	Belgium	EASME is the European Union executive agency	for SMEs in charge of Enterprise Eu	synbio amor	EASME-SME-HELF	ec.europa.eu/easme/en
1969	Eight Roads Ventures	Investor	UK	Eight Roads Ventures is a global venture capital	firm managing \$11bn of assets acro	synbio amor	_	eightroads.com/en/
	Elaia	Investor	France	We are a vc fund investing in B2B tech european				https://www.elaia.com
4-Apr-13	Eleven Ventures	Investor	Bulgaria	Eleven supports early-stage tech companies fro	m Southeast Europe in Fintech, Heal	synbio amor	eleven@11.me	11.vc
1998	Enterprise Ireland	Gouv agency	Ireland	Enterprise Ireland is the government agency res	ponsible for the development and p	synbio amor	equitydept@ente	enterprise-ireland.com
1-Sep-11	Entrepreneur First	Investor	UK	Entrepreneur First brings ambitious founders to	gether to build globally important to	synbio amor	info@joinef.com	www.joinef.com



































### **SYNBEE Pitch Competition**



Min. TRL2: Technology concept formulate



Deadline: December 8th 2023 - 12pm



Pitch competition during SYNBEE day - March 2024 **EIC Facilities - Brussels** 



All: Join the SYNBEE community & get initial assessment of your idea

Finalists: Training on good pitching practices & meet syn bio experts

Winners: in-kind prizes





Green innovations: Create solutions with a positive environmental impact

Biofuels from cyanobacteria, genetically modified enzymes to capture methane and transform it into new biodegradable biopolymers...



Blue economy: Innovate while preserving oceans ecosystem

Aquatic microorganisms to produce sustainable hydrogen, ocean decontamination bacteria digesting hazards...



Sustainability: Rethink how to protect existing resources of our land

Multi-use textiles, biomining, nature conservation...

### Selected finalists – awards at EIC x SYNBEE Day





















































# **Thank You**

Alexandra Chukas Da Vinci Labs











































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www.davincilabs.eu

