

 Финансирано от
Европейския съюз
NextGenerationEU



Национален план за
възстановяване и
устойчивост
НА РЕПУБЛИКА БЪЛГАРИЯ



PROGRAMME

MUVATHON

HIGH TECH MUVE CONFERENCE

„WAYS FORWARD – INTEGRATION, COOPERATION, OPEN MINDS“

April 27 – 28, 2026

Ensana Aquahouse Hotel
St. Constantine and Helena, Varna, Bulgaria

Monday, April 27th, 2026

17:30 – 17:45 **Opening**

Welcome address by Prof. Dimitar Raykov, Rector and Prof. Violeta Iotova, Vice-Rector of Science and Research, MU-Varna

Greetings from Ekaterina Zaharieva, European Commissioner for Startups, Research and Innovation – video

17:45 – 19:30 **Technology & innovation development in Europe** (Panel discussion)

Moderator: Gergana Passy

Ivan Popov – Director, Executive Agency “Program for Education”

Maria Victoria Hernández-Valcárcel – Board Member European Innovation Council

Taryn Andersen – President, Impulse for woman

Stefan Savic – CEO, LIFE BioCEED

Stavriana A. Kofteros – Founding Partner W11 Ventures

Georgi Georgiev – Chief Program & Strategy Officer, AI Cluster Bulgaria

Boyan Zhekov – Horizon Europe National Coordinator

Boris Dimitrov – Checkpoint Care, MedTech startup

20:00 **Welcome reception**

Tuesday, April 28th, 2026

09:00 – 11:00 **Session 1 - Oncology Unbound: Catalyzing Knowledge into Healthcare impact.**

Moderators: Yoana Kiselova, Gabriela Tomova

Ivaylo Petrov (Coordinator of Bulgarian National Cancer Mission Hub, BJCN, Advisor to the Minister of Health): “Synergy instead of fragmentation: The cross-sector catalyst from knowledge to impact in healthcare”

Cristian Badea (Duke University, USA): “Bridging Preclinical and Clinical Cancer Imaging: Lessons from Duke’s Participation in the Co-Clinical Imaging Research Program (CIRP)”

Elitsa Encheva (Professor in Radiology and Radiotherapy, MU-Varna): “Innovations in metastases imaging”

Nora Mineva (CEO and Chief Scientist, Adecto Pharmaceuticals Inc., Boston, MA, USA): "From Academic Research at Tufts University to Commercialization of Cancer Treatments in the USA"

Yoana Kiselova-Kaneva (Professor at the Department of Biochemistry, Molecular Medicine and Nutrigenomics, MU-Varna): "System and method for digital healthcare modeling (Based on recent patent application)"

Kristina Bliznakova (Professor at the Department of Medical Equipment, Electronic and Information Technologies in Healthcare, MU-Varna): "Innovative technologies for breast screening and diagnostics (Based on recent patent application)"

Q&A

**11:00 – 11:30 Coffee Break;
Free Meetings (matchmaking and pitch zones presentations)**

**11:30 – 13:00 Session 2 – Autism Spectrum Disorders: Myths and Reality.
Moderators: Rouzha Pancheva, Silviya Nikolova**

Berkan Beyti & Victor Radev (pregradual students, Faculty of Medicine – MU -Varna): "Beyond the spectrum. Breaking the Myths to unlock human potential"

Anna Yotova (PhD Neuroscientist, Frankfurt University/UC Davis): "Modern Theories of Autism Etiology – on the Road to Discovery"

Silviya Nikolova (Assoc. Professor at the Department of Social Medicine, MU - Varna): "More Life. Less Survival"

Sevdzhihan Eyubova (Professor in Developmental Psychology, Konstantin Preslavsky University of Shumen): "Parents Behind the Diagnosis: The Invisible Risk and the Need of Support"

Nikolay Mihaylov (Assist. Professor at the Department of Health Economics and Management, MU-Varna): "Understanding and Acceptance: Support Networks and Community Participation"

Rouzha Pancheva (Professor at the Department of Hygiene and Epidemiology, MU-Varna): "Innovation with a Cause: Digital Support for Families, Not Promises of Cure"

Q&A

13:00 – 14:30 Lunch & free conversations

14:30 – 16:00 **Session 3 – The Innovation Lab: Engineering the Future.**
Moderators: Zhivka Parusheva, Viliana Gugleva

Stella Tkachova (European Innovation Council Ambassador):
"Health in Space"

Dimitar Vasilev (European Innovation Council Ambassador, Chairman of Bulgarian Business Forums, Founder of Innovave Summit): "From Research to Impact: The EIC Path for Health Innovation"

Boyko Georgiev (Research Institute AO Foundation Davos, Switzerland): "Innovations in bone fracture care – treatment, monitoring and prognosis of fracture healing"

Manlio Vinciguera (Professor and ERA Chair, MU-Varna):
"Epigenetics tools as cancer biomarkers"

Renato Del Grosso (Co-Founder & Chief Strategy Officer, Cube Labs, Italy): "From lab to market: the venture builder model"

Nadezhda Ivanova & Velichka Andonova (Department of Pharmaceutical Technologies, MU-Varna): "Additivity and Synergism: Key to Counteract Antimicrobial Resistance by Developing New Combined Broad-Spectrum Antimicrobial Agents with Multi-Target activity"

Viliana Gugleva (Assoc. Professor at the Department of Pharmaceutical Technologies, MU-Varna): "New combination of natural oils and pigments with regenerative effect (Based on recent patent application)"

Q&A

16:00 – 16:30 **Coffee Break**

16:30 – 18:00 **Session 4 – Heritage and Medicine: The Valorization of Tradition.**
Moderators: Milena Georgieva, Oskan Tasinov

Aleksander Minchev (Former Director of Archeological Museum Varna): "The Myth of Dionysius and wine production in the Bulgarian archeological past"

Milena Georgieva (Professor at Institute of Molecular Biology, Bulgarian Academy of Science, Sofia): "Wine as a molecular story: Bioactive compounds, epigenetics and longevity"

Petio Boshnakov (Chief Assist. Prof. at University of Economics – Varna): “Contemporary wine production – tradition and innovation”

Milen Georgiev (Professor at Bulgarian Academy of Science, Sofia): “Anti-obesity and longevity promotion properties of dietary plants and herbs”

Oskan Tasinov (Assoc. Professor Department of Biochemistry, Molecular Medicine and Nutrigenomics, MU–Varna): “Antiviral, antioxidant and immunomodulatory potential of a bioactive natural combination (Based on recent patent application)”

Q&A

18:00 – 18:30 Closing speeches and remarks

18:30 – 19:00 Wine testing

19:00 Dinner

