

23-24 MARCH 2026 | ROTTERDAM

DIA LIFT START-UP ACCELERATOR PROGRAMME

Empowering early-stage health innovators for market success

DAY 1 | MONDAY, 23 MARCH 2026

12:00 – 12:30 PM

Light Lunch

- Informal networking and arrival of participants

12:30 – 12:45 PM

Welcome & Opening Words

- Introduction by DIA Team
- Framing the biotech & start-up initiative within DIA Europe 2026

12:45 – 2:15 PM

Investment & Alliances: Pathways to Market and Growth

- Funding fit: Public and non-VC options
- Biotech growth & access success stories
- Pharma & VC perspectives on scaling innovation
- Roundtable discussion on how to approach investments and funding

2:15 – 2:45 PM

Coffee Break

Start-Up Accelerator – All You Need To Know Before You Fall into the Rabbit Hole

- 20 years' experience EMA and early regulatory dialogue: When and how to engage with EMA/NCAs
- Early dialogue devices and IVD-HTA
- Understanding patient and HTA involvement: Building credibility for early-stage innovation
- Access readiness: how to reach the finish line
- How biotech act will impact EUCTR – future implication
- Coffee top-up / short stretch
- Interactive Q&A + open mic – audience inputs with real-time polling on challenges

2:45 – 5:00 PM

Innovation Networking

- Informal exchange between investors, biotech, and DIA leadership

7:00 PM

Pitch Finalists Table at the DIA Inspire Awards

DAY 2 | TUESDAY, 24 MARCH 2026

Opening Session at DIA Europe 2026

8:30 – 10:00 AM

- Keynote dedicated to bringing Innovation to Europe
- Panel discussion - “A beacon for global collaboration: How can the EU lead life sciences through this geopolitical moment?”

10:00 – 10:15 AM

Coffee Break

Roundtable 1

10:15 – 11:30 AM

- Improving clinical trial design to expedite approvals
- Diagnostics approvals through the lenses of IVDR
- Exploring the Chinese market – for start-ups
- Alternative funding – pitfalls and way forward

Roundtable 2

11:30 – 12:45 PM

- Medtech approvals through the lenses of MDR
- Early market access strategies
- Exploring the US market – for start-ups
- Pharma/combination products

12:45 – 1:30 PM

Light Lunch

LIFT Start-Up – Pitch Competition

1:30 – 4:20 PM

- Start-ups present to investors, pharma, and experts
- Evaluation and feedback from the panel

4:30 – 5:30 PM

DIAmond Session: Clinical Research Competitiveness

- Exploring Europe's competitiveness and innovation ecosystem

5:30 – 6:30 PM

DIA Welcome Reception & Networking

- Announcement of the Pitch Competition Winners