

# EU – Canada MME / Pitching session



BULGARIA

## Kristina Eskenazi



# Bulgaria: A Nexus of Innovation and Talent



- ✓ **1st place** worldwide Olympic medals in linguistic
- ✓ **6th place** worldwide Olympic medals in STEM
- ✓ **42%** of those involved in STEM are Females
- ✓ Bulgarian **Female Chess Players Team** Became EU Champions'23
- ✓ Bulgaria is one of the 14 countries in the initiative **MEGA**
- ✓ **BG GPT** - the first open AI language model adapted to use the Bulgarian language, by INSAIT
- ✓ **80 Years of history.** John Atanasoff has been granted as the founder of the first electronic digital computer
- ✓ **70,000 people** are employed in the ICT sector. The general AI community in Bulgaria is estimated at 6,000 people
- ✓ **Major technologies:** Machine Learning, Natural Language Processing, Computer Vision, Big Data and Cloud Computing

# AI Cluster Bulgaria: Hidden gem in the heart of SEE

Professional non-governmental organization committed to building a sustainable ecosystem in the AI sector.

Member of the Managing Board of BRAIT (Bulgarian Employers' Association for Innovation and Technology), together with Automotive Cluster, Mechatronics Cluster, BAIT, BASCOM, ICT Cluster and others.

In May 2023 the AI Cluster Bulgaria became a founding member of European AI Forum (EAIF), with over 2.000 members which makes it the largest European AI organisation.

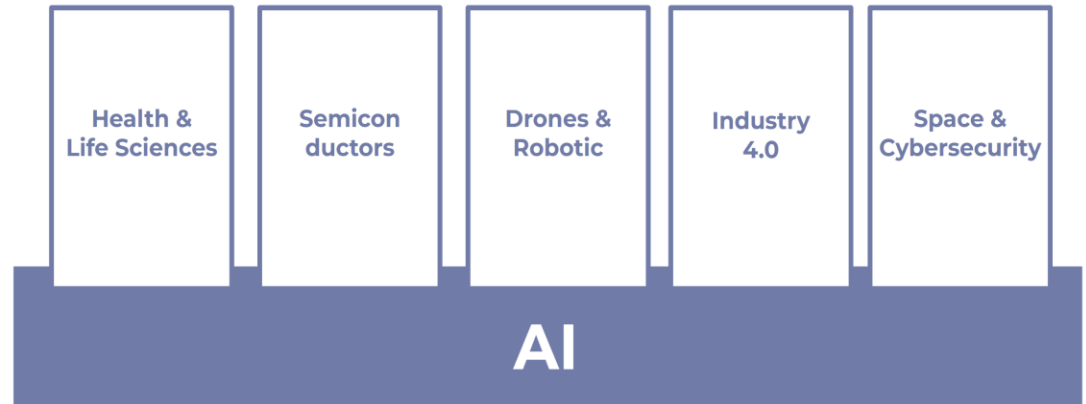


- **120+** companies (30 core AI)
- **17.3%** YoY revenue growth
- **25%** increase in personnel
- **40%** in R&D role

# Key Projects

- ✓ Reports and research (Annual AI Report, AI & ME Report)
- ✓ Conferences (Spinoff Bulgaria, Green Transition, AI & Cyber)
- ✓ Ethic & Regulation (governmental working groups – for AI, EU AI Act, U-space, Data Act, ICT).
- ✓ Hackathons - AI & I Factory, AI Girls
- ✓ Bootcamp for PhDs – Brain Chips
- ✓ AI Masterclasses, AI Club next to STP
- ✓ Drones & AI Labs with TUS and STP
- ✓ Institute for Quantum Technology

## Interdisciplinary





# Let's work together!

- ✓ Technology Transfer and knowledge exchange
- ✓ Cross-Sector / Cross-Industrial Collaborations
- ✓ Education and R&D
- ✓ Entrepreneurship / Spinoffs
- ✓ Market access and commercialisation
- ✓ EU and International Projects Collaborations
- ✓ Development of Innovative Ecosystems
- ✓ Masterclasses and accelerator programs
- ✓ Investor and B2B Matchmaking events



# Networking



# THANK YOU

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