A person wearing black pants and white sneakers with prosthetic legs is holding a black string attached to a small black drone. The drone is hovering in the air. The background is a plain, light-colored wall and floor.

From lab to impact

A series for researchers ready to explore new horizons

20th May - 27th May - 3rd June

Are you a researcher looking to amplify the real-world impact of your work? Join us for *From lab to impact*, a series of 3 info sessions designed to help you imagine what that future could look like.

This series is hosted by **Startlab.Brussels and VUB** and brings you inspiring real-life stories, plenty of practical insights and the opportunity to connect with researchers who have successfully made the leap.


Who is this for?

Researchers from any discipline who are curious about creating impact, exploring innovation, or rethinking the next step in their career. Whether you are curious about innovation mandates, real-world applications, or building the right team, this is a great opportunity to explore stepping outside the lab. Because your research has potential far beyond the lab.

Session 1

Real-world applications are born in the lab.

Real stories of research that SPIN-off.

 **Date: May, 20th 2025 18h**

 **Location: LIC center @VUB**

What if your research was just the beginning?


This session is about that crucial moment when your idea becomes more than an academic publication, and starts responding to a real-world need. We will explore what it means to valorise research with a view to real-world impact, and how that shift can open unexpected paths.


Hear from former researchers who turned their work into impactful ventures. Learn how they stepped outside the academic comfort zone and discovered what it takes to transform an idea into innovation.

 **Speakers:**

Florian Myter, former VUB PhD researcher and [Co-founder of weave.ly](#)

Jens De Vos, former VUB PhD researcher and [Head of Alliance and Program Management of Precirix](#)

 Includes Q&A


 Networking drinks and snacks

Registration: <https://www.vub.be/en/event/from-research-impact-next-step-in-your-career>

Session 2

Funded to make impact.

Real stories of innovation mandates in action.


 **Date: May, 27th 2025 12h**

 **Location: LIC center @ VUB**

How can you continue working on your research or innovation - and bring it to life, even beyond the university?


This session explores how targeted funding and support can unlock new potential and accelerate the real-world use of your work. Whether you're ready to start a company or simply want to take your research one step further, mechanisms like innovation mandates can offer the stability and momentum you need to move forward.


Hear honest stories from researchers who seized these opportunities to secure time, space, and backing to make their next move - and the unexpected lessons they learned along the way.

 **Speakers: Pieter Boonen, Postdoctoral researcher – [Project PADFLOW](#)**

Benyameen Kheelson, Postdoctoral researcher – [project Karma](#)

Taylor Frantz, Postdoctoral researcher – Project Sara

 Includes Q&A

 Sandwich lunch will be provided

Registration: <https://www.vub.be/en/event/from-research-impact-funded-make-impact>

Session 3

Building a team to create impact.

Real stories of turning solo ideas into team successes.



Date: June, 3rd 2025 12h




Location: LIC center @ VUB


Imagine accelerating your research, turning it into real-world impact. But then you hit a wall.

You can't do it all alone. The good news? You are not supposed to.

This session is all about building the right team around your innovation. Who do you need? Where do you find them? And how do you even get started when it is just you and your research?

Learn why strong teams are often the secret behind successful innovation, and hear honest stories from (former) researchers who found, or had to build, their ideal collaborators to go further than they ever could alone.

 Speakers: will be confirmed soon

 Includes Q&A

 Sandwich lunch will be provided

Registration: <https://www.vub.be/en/event/from-research-impact-building-team>
