

Ideas That Move Europe – Rebooting the Future It's not all over now, Planet blue!

TransformIT Europe 2026 brings together stakeholders shaping Europe's digital and sustainable transformation—from politics, business, science, and technology—all the way through to practical implementation. Over two days, the conference program explores how AI, data, smart infrastructure, and digital sovereignty can become practical tools for climate protection, business competitiveness, and measurable impact.

The conference links the major strategic questions of our time with concrete solutions: How can cities use digital tools to become more resilient? How can smart buildings and smart cities offer real added value beyond technology? How can Europe regain control over digital infrastructure, hardware lifecycles, and AI capabilities? And how can companies make the leap from compliance and reporting to tangible sustainability results?

From biodiversity and urban climate adaptation to circular IT, green AI, smart buildings, SDGs, and the decarbonization of industry, TransformIT Europe creates a platform for those who don't just talk about transformation—but shape, finance, regulate, scale, and put it into practice.

Join us in Brussels and connect with leading experts, decision-makers, and innovators working at the intersection of sustainability, digitalization, and Europe's future competitiveness.

Jan Nintemann
Founder, TransformIT Europe
/ CEO, Global Fairs

**One Team.
One Transformation.**



CONFERENCE PROGRAMME

Please note that the agenda is subject to change

DAY 1

Wednesday, 6 May 2026

11:00

Opening
by Organizer TransformIT GmbH
Jan Nintemann, CEO TransformIT
& Desiree Schneider

From Innovation to Impact: How Collaboration and Technology Drives the SDGs

Griet Cattaert, Regional Head Western Europe and North America - United Nations Global Compact

Can AI save the nature?

Dr. Frauke Fischer, Founder Agentur auf!

AI for ESG / CSRD

12:00

Introduction to the Topic
Desiree Schneider

► **Carbon + Energy + AI = Industrial Competitiveness /**
How AI frees us from reporting to enable financial value creation through decarbonization
Sébastien Leempoel, CEO D-carbonize

► **GenAI and Sustainability: Reconciling Impact, Efficiency and Sovereignty**

Wiebren van der Zee, CIO office - Domain Expert - Sustainable IT, ABN AMRO

► **Q&A audience and speakers**
Desiree Schneider & speakers

13:05

Lunch & Networking

Smart City / Smart Building

13:50

Introduction to the Topic
Bob Snyder

► **AI for Climate Action in Cities**
Dusan Chrenek, Principal Adviser @ European Commission, Climate-Digital-Space

► **The ROI of Smart Buildings**

Nicholas White, Co-Founder, Managing Partner, Smart Building Collective

► **What Makes a State-of-the-Art Smart Building?**

Erik Ubels, Founder of MetisReal

► **Is it "Retrofit" or Future-Fit for Europe's Buildings?**

Tomás Mac Eoin, CEO of McKeon Group Hereworks

► **AI Could Be IoT's Last Chance**

Charles Reed Anderson, Founder of Charles Reed Anderson Consulting

► **Q&A audience and speakers**

Bob Snyder, Desiree Schneider & Speakers

15:55

Coffee Break & Networking

16:10

Introduction to the Topic
Bob Snyder

► **Green digital transition for the benefits of cities**

Ilias Iakovidis, Adviser - Digital aspects of Green Transition, European Commission, DG CONNECT

► **Turning Remote Sensing into Targeted Urban Tree Care: Evidence from 587,026 Trees in Copenhagen and Lisbon**

Lea Heise, Urban Resilience Strategy Manager, ASITIS

► **From Strategy to Execution: Why Smart Cities and Sustainable Initiatives Still Struggle to Scale**

Abdellah El H'Jeuej, Smart City Expert, TransformIT Europe

► **Q&A audience and speakers**

Bob Snyder, Desiree Schneider & Speakers

17:40

Get-Together & Networking

DAY 2

Thursday, 7 May 2026

10:30

Introduction to Event Day 2 and keynote "Your IT's Second Life: How European Companies Transform Surplus Hardware into CSRD-Proof Impact"

Desiree Schneider & Loïc Ganza, Business Development Director, Close the Gap

Digital Sovereignty made in Europe

10:55

Introduction to the Topic
Desiree Schneider

► **Solutions for digital sovereignty before Trump flips the kill switch**

Prof. Dr. Harald Wehnes, Professor of computer science, University of Würzburg

► **AI as a Sustainability Multiplier - Digitalization as the Strongest Lever for Impact, Efficiency and Sustainable Innovation**

Jens Mühlner, Head of Digital sustainability Solutions, T-Systems

► **Q&A audience and speakers**

Desiree Schneider, Loïc Ganza, Prof. Wehnes & Jens Mühlner

12:05

Coffee & Networking Break

Circular Economy & Refurbishment

12:30

Introduction to the Topic
Daniel Mendes Jenner & Desiree Schneider

► **Majorities shift, circles remain - The role of Circular Economy amid crises and tensions**

Daniel Mendes Jenner, Head of YOUNG forum, forum future economy

► **Before the Pig: The R-Ladder Upside Down**

Laili Ishaqzai, Co-Founder Molano NL

► **Own Your Tech: Reclaiming Control Over IT**

Jan Hoogstrate, Executive Director, Free ICT Europe

► **Q&A audience and speakers**

Daniel Mendes Jenner, Desiree Schneider & speakers

14:00

Lunch & Networking

AI for Green Energy - Green Energy for AI

14:40

Introduction to the Topic
Desiree Schneider

► **AI as Oracle or Muse? Working with AI as a Teammate**

Prof. Bryan Cassady, Director, GenOrg.ai

► **Right-Fit AI Infrastructure for Europe: Distributed Inference on Pockets of Green Energy**

Erin Beilharz, Co-Founder, Navon World

► **Bridging Energy Efficiency Policy and Digital Infrastructure Growth**

Nikolaos Kontinakis, Team Leader, European Commission (DG Energy), Belgium

► **Q&A audience and speakers**
Desiree Schneider & speakers

16:05

From Conference to Europe's Greentech Marketplace: 2027
Jan Nintemann & Desiree Schneider



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conferences

SPEAKERS



Erin Beilharz

Co-Founder, Navon World, Germany

SESSION

Right-Fit AI Infrastructure for Europe: Distributed Inference on Pockets of Green Energy

In her session, Erin Beilharz explores how Europe can build a more distributed and efficient AI infrastructure by deploying smaller, locally adapted data centers. She shows how this approach can improve digital sovereignty, reduce energy constraints and enable real-world AI applications across industries and regions.

ABOUT THE SPEAKER

Erin Beilharz is Co-Founder of Navon World, where she develops distributed, right-fit AI infrastructure across Europe and Africa. Her work focuses on building resilient, energy-aware and sovereign compute systems that support real-world applications beyond centralized hyperscaler models.



Bryan Cassady

Director, GenOrg.ai, Belgium

SESSION

AI as Oracle or Muse? Working with AI as a Teammate

In his talk, Bryan Cassady challenges the common use of AI as a simple answer machine and introduces a new approach: AI as a creative partner. He shows how organizations can use AI to spark new ideas, challenge assumptions and build better habits to unlock real value beyond efficiency.

ABOUT THE SPEAKER

Prof. Bryan Cassady is an AI expert, author and keynote speaker focused on turning artificial intelligence into measurable business impact. With a background in academia, entrepreneurship and consulting, he helps organizations rethink how humans and AI collaborate to drive innovation and lasting change.



Griet Cattaert

Regional Head Western Europe and North America, United Nations Global Compact

SESSION

From Innovation to Impact: How Collaboration and Technology Drives the SDGs

In her session, Griet Cattaert explores how sustainability and the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) can become drivers of business value, innovation and competitiveness. She highlights the role of technology and cross-sector collaboration in scaling impact and closing gaps in international cooperation.

ABOUT THE SPEAKER

Griet Cattaert is Regional Head for Western Europe and North America at the United Nations Global Compact, where she works with businesses, governments and institutions to advance sustainable development. With a background at the ILO and in corporate sustainability, she brings extensive experience in responsible business conduct and international collaboration.



Dusan Chrenek

Principal Adviser for Digital, Green Transition in the Directorate-General, Climate Action of the European Commission

SESSION

AI for Climate Action in Cities

Cities are on the front line of climate change, facing increasing risks from heatwaves, floods, and infrastructure stress. At the same time, they are uniquely positioned to lead the transition toward climate neutrality and resilience. AI can turn complexity into clarity, helping cities anticipate risks, design smarter solutions, and act in real time. It has the potential to transform how we plan, invest, and protect our communities. But we need empowering cities to move faster, make better decisions, and turn ambition into action. The future of climate action will be shaped in cities—and increasingly, it will be powered by AI.

ABOUT THE SPEAKER

Mr Dušan Chrenek is a Principal Adviser for Digital for Green Transition in the Directorate-General for Climate Action of the European Commission. He focuses on using digital and space technologies for climate action, including early warning and adaptation. Mr Chrenek has an extensive experience from the European and national administrations.

SPEAKERS



Abdellah El H'Jeouej Boutgoura

Head of Strategic Partnerships | Smart City Expert, TransformIT Europe, Spain

SESSION

From Strategy to Execution: Why Smart Cities and Sustainable Initiatives Still Struggle to Scale

In his session, Abdellah explores why many smart city and sustainability initiatives fail to move beyond pilot stage. Drawing on real-world experience, he highlights key barriers such as fragmented ecosystems and misaligned incentives, and outlines how better stakeholder alignment and practical implementation can turn innovation into scalable impact.

ABOUT THE SPEAKER

Abdellah El H'Jeouej Boutgoura is Head of Strategic Partnerships at TransformIT Europe, working at the intersection of greentech, digital transformation and cross-sector collaboration. With international experience across Europe, MENA and the Americas, he focuses on aligning stakeholders and turning strategy into measurable impact. a creative partner. He shows how organizations can use AI to spark new ideas, challenge assumptions and build better habits to unlock real value beyond efficiency.



Loïc Ganza

Director of Business Development, Close the Gap, Belgium

SESSION

Your IT's Second Life: How European Companies Transform Surplus Hardware into CSRD-Proof Impact

In his talk, Loïc Ganza shows how companies can transform surplus IT into a practical and measurable ESG lever. Drawing on real-world cases, he explains how structured reuse programs support CSRD requirements while delivering tangible impact—from secure data handling to global access to technology in education and healthcare.

ABOUT THE SPEAKER

Loïc Ganza is Director of Business Development at Close the Gap, a social enterprise focused on extending the life of corporate IT through secure and certified reuse. He works with organizations across Europe to turn end-of-life devices into measurable environmental and social impact.



Dr. Frauke Fischer

Managing Founder, Agentur auf!, Germany

SESSION

Can AI save the nature?

In her keynote, Frauke Fischer explores how artificial intelligence can support biodiversity conservation by analyzing complex data, detecting ecosystem changes and enabling new conservation approaches. She highlights practical applications as well as the limits of technology, emphasizing that protecting nature remains a human responsibility—one that AI can significantly strengthen.

ABOUT THE SPEAKER

Dr. Frauke Fischer is a biodiversity expert, scientist and entrepreneur working at the intersection of business, sustainability and nature conservation. As founder of Agentur auf!, she advises companies on integrating biodiversity into their strategies and is a recognized voice in connecting ecological and economic systems.



Lea Heise

Resilience Strategy Manager, ASITIS, Czechia

SESSION

Turning Remote Sensing into Targeted Urban Tree Care: Evidence from 587,026 Trees in Copenhagen and Lisbon

In her session, Lea Heise demonstrates how satellite data and predictive models can transform urban greenery into a measurable tool for climate adaptation. She shows how cities can identify vulnerable trees, prioritize investments and make faster, data-driven decisions to improve resilience and reduce heat-related risks.

ABOUT THE SPEAKER

Lea Heise is an Urban Resilience Strategy Manager at ASITIS, specializing in data-driven climate adaptation for cities. Her work focuses on using satellite data and GIS analytics to improve urban greenery, resilience and public health outcomes across Europe.



Jan Hoogstrate

Executive Director, Free ICT Europe Foundation, Netherlands

SESSION

Own Your Tech: Reclaiming Control Over IT

In his session, Jan Hoogstrate explains how digital sovereignty can be achieved in practice by extending control over the full IT lifecycle. He highlights the role of the IT aftermarket in reducing dependency on non-European vendors, enabling longer product lifecycles and aligning sustainability with strategic autonomy.

ABOUT THE SPEAKER

Jan Hoogstrate is Executive Director of the Free ICT Europe Foundation, advocating for a more independent and sustainable European IT ecosystem. His work focuses on reducing vendor lock-in and strengthening digital sovereignty through alternative approaches to IT lifecycle management.



Laili Ishaqzai

Co-founder & CEO, Molano, The Netherlands

SESSION

Before the Pig: The R-Ladder Upside Down

In her talk, Laili Ishaqzai challenges the gap between circularity in theory and in practice. Drawing on real-world experience in the circular hardware sector, she explores how value is often lost long before devices enter formal recycling processes and argues that digital sovereignty must include control over physical hardware and material resources.

ABOUT THE SPEAKER

Laili Ishaqzai is co-founder and CEO of Molano, a Dutch company focused on extending the lifecycle of professional hardware through sourcing, repair and redistribution. With a background in law, political science and commercial leadership, she brings a unique perspective at the intersection of markets, regulation and circular infrastructure.



Ilias Iakovidis PhD

Adviser, European Commission (DG CONNECT), Belgium

SESSION

Green digital transition for the benefits of cities

In his session, Ilias Iakovidis explores how digital technologies can accelerate sustainable urban development by improving efficiency, resilience and quality of life. He highlights the importance of measuring both the environmental footprint and the positive impact of digital solutions, and shows how cities can leverage EU frameworks and green finance to scale impactful innovation.

ABOUT THE SPEAKER

Ilias Iakovidis is an Adviser at the European Commission (DG CONNECT), focusing on the digital aspects of the green transition. He initiated the European Green Digital Coalition and works on key EU initiatives such as the Digital Product Passport, supporting sustainable and circular business models across Europe.



Nikolaos Kontinakis

Policy Officer, DG ENER, European Commission

SESSION

Bridging Energy Efficiency Policy and Digital Infrastructure Growth

In his session, Nikolaos Kontinakis explores how Europe can align the rapid expansion of digital infrastructure with energy efficiency goals. He provides insights into upcoming EU legislation and highlights how policy frameworks can support sustainable data centre development and ensure that the digital transition contributes to climate objectives.

ABOUT THE SPEAKER

Nikolaos Kontinakis is Team Leader in the Energy Efficiency Unit of the European Commission (DG Energy), working on policy and implementation of Europe's energy efficiency targets. With over 25 years of experience across energy, climate, ICT and sustainable urban development, he focuses on aligning digital infrastructure growth with energy efficiency and sustainability.

SPEAKERS



Sébastien Leempoel

CEO, D-Carbonize, Belgium

SESSION

“Carbon + Energy + AI = Industrial Competitiveness”

In his session, Sébastien Leempoel shows how AI transforms carbon and energy data from a reporting burden into a strategic business asset. He explains how automation frees ESG teams from compliance work and enables companies to reduce costs, strengthen resilience and gain competitive advantage through decarbonization.

ABOUT THE SPEAKER

Sébastien Leempoel is a climate entrepreneur and CEO of D-Carbonize, helping industrial companies turn decarbonization into a driver of business performance. His work focuses on linking carbon, energy and financial value creation through data-driven approaches.



Daniel Mendes Jenner

Head of YOUNG forum, Forum for Future Economy, Germany

SESSION

Majorities shift, circles remain - The role of Circular Economy amid crises and tensions

In his keynote, Daniel Mendes Jenner explores the role of circular economy as a strategic lever for resilience, competitiveness and resource security. He highlights the gap between ambition and implementation and argues that circularity requires new business models, stronger collaboration and systemic change to scale effectively.

ABOUT THE SPEAKER

Daniel Mendes Jenner is a journalist, moderator and filmmaker focused on sustainability and societal transformation. Through his work and the YOUNG forum community, he connects businesses, policymakers and young changemakers to drive forward a more sustainable economy.



Thomas Mac Eoin

CEO, McKeon Group Ireland

SESSION

Is it “Retrofit” or Future-Fit for Europe's Buildings?

Organisations occupying older buildings face increasing cost pressures, workplace expectations, ESG obligations, RTO dynamics, asset risks and emerging legislation. With retrofit, it's not uncommon to achieve 15–25% HVAC energy reduction, 20–35% lighting energy reduction, dramatic drops in hot/cold calls, massive improvements in comfort, usability and wellbeing and space efficiencies that free up entire floors. The next five years will be defined not by the buildings we build— but by the buildings we transform!

ABOUT THE SPEAKER

Hereworks redefines intelligent built environments and provides smart building innovations internationally. With deep roots in general contracting and construction project management as part of McKeon Group, Hereworks leverages shared expertise, systems and rigorous standards in Quality, Environmental and Health & Safety management. As CEO, Tomás has an unusual passion for big data and the human behavioral insights we can learn from smart building data. With a background and expertise in IP Networks, Automation and RF Engineering, he has expertise in many technical areas and is a Member of the Institute of Engineers Ireland (MIEI). He has also founded (or worked as Senior Director for) several Internet Service Providers (ISPs) during his 20+ years in leadership roles.



Jens Mühlner

Head of Digital Sustainability Solutions, T-Systems International GmbH, Germany

SESSION

AI as a Sustainability Multiplier - Digitalization as the Strongest Lever for Impact, Efficiency and Sustainable Innovation

In his session, Jens Mühlner explores how AI and data-driven solutions enable organizations to move beyond compliance and turn sustainability into a driver of business value. He demonstrates how digitalization can increase efficiency, resilience and innovation while delivering measurable impact at scale.

ABOUT THE SPEAKER

Jens Mühlner leads Digital Sustainability Solutions at T-Systems and is a recognized expert in the intersection of digitalization and sustainability. He is actively involved in shaping responsible digital transformation through initiatives such as the Charter for Digital Networking and industry collaborations.

SPEAKERS



Charles Reed Anderson,

Founder, Charles Reed Anderson Consulting

SESSION

AI Could Be IoT's Last Chance

IoT isn't dead. It just stopped being useful as a buzzword. The industry lied to itself for a decade. The forecasts never made sense. The ecosystem infighting cost us years. We all knew. We just didn't care. Now AI is handing IoT a second chance. Most organizations don't have an AI problem. They have a people problem with an AI budget attached to it. Between 70% and 85% of digital transformations fail. The technology is rarely the culprit. The world doesn't need another AI framework. It needs the C.R.A.P. Recognition Model.

ABOUT THE SPEAKER

Charles Reed Anderson is a prominent technology innovator and thought leader who advises tech vendors, mobile operators, enterprises, and governments. He hosts the TechBurst Talks podcast and serves on the Advisory Board of the Global Organization of Smart Cities. Previously, Charles was a Senior Advisor at McKinsey & Company and a Visiting Scholar at Stanford University's Smart City Research Center. He has led telecom and IoT initiatives at market researcher IDC as well as at major telecom companies.



Eric Ubels

Founder, MetisReal

SESSION

What Makes a State-of-the-Art Smart Building?

One of the smart building industry's favorite speakers, Erik Ubels will cut through the technical noise to show you exactly how to bridge the gap between physical infrastructure and data analytics to advanced AI applications. Join us to discover how turning raw data into actionable or even predictive insights that can revolutionize sustainability, operational efficiency, and bottom line.

ABOUT THE SPEAKER

Erik Ubels, founder of MetisReal, supports stakeholders in the smart building space on their journey to smart buildings. Erik was previously CIO for Deloitte in the Netherlands. Combining his drive for innovation and unique skills in IT, electronics, and customer services, Erik led the development of the new office for Deloitte in Amsterdam-- The Edge, the first fully converged smart building in the world. The Edge building made Erik one of the most recognizable names in the Smart Building industry.



Wiebren van der Zee

Domain Expert Sustainable IT, ABN AMRO, Netherlands

SESSION

GenAI and Sustainability: Reconciling Impact, Efficiency and Sovereignty

In this panel contribution, Wiebren van der Zee explores the net impact of generative AI through the lens of sustainability and sovereignty. He highlights how AI can reduce environmental impact, support green coding and enable greater control over digital infrastructure, while remaining competitive in a rapidly evolving technological landscape.

ABOUT THE SPEAKER

Wiebren van der Zee is a Domain Expert for Sustainable IT at ABN AMRO, with over 25 years of experience across IT operations, architecture and consulting. He focuses on integrating sustainability into IT strategy and explores the intersection of AI, impact and digital sovereignty.



Prof. Dr. Harald Wehnes

Professor of Computer Science, University of Würzburg, Germany

SESSION

Solutions for digital sovereignty before Trump flips the kill switch

In his talk, Harald Wehnes outlines the risks of Europe's dependence on non-European digital infrastructure and presents concrete policy and strategic measures to regain control. He highlights actionable steps for governments, organisations and citizens to reduce reliance on global tech monopolies and strengthen European digital resilience.

ABOUT THE SPEAKER

Prof. Dr. Harald Wehnes is a computer science professor at the University of Würzburg and a leading voice on digital sovereignty in Europe. With over 30 years of experience in IT across business, research and public administration, he focuses on strengthening Europe's independence from global tech monopolies.



Nicholas White

Managing Partner, Smart Building Collective

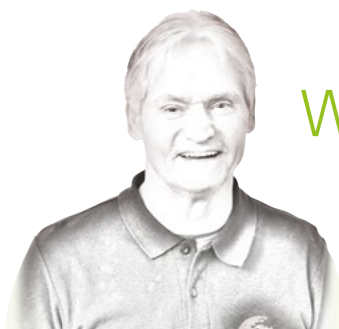
SESSION

The ROI of Smart Building

How will we move to value driven 'holistic smart'? The smart building industry doesn't have a technology problem. It has an ROI clarity problem. Every conference talks about innovation, efficiency, and impact. But when the conversation reaches the CFO, the investment committee, or the board... it often stalls because commercial real estate runs on a small set of financial levers. Smart isn't the goal-- sustainable financial performance is.

ABOUT THE SPEAKER

Nicholas White is the Managing Partner at Smart Building Collective, an institution renowned for its pioneering work in smart building certifications. With an extensive background in digital transformation, Nicholas plays a pivotal role in certifying buildings, solutions, and service providers against the SBC framework.



WELCOME REMARKS by

Jan Nintemann
Founder, TransformIT Europe
CEO, Global Fairs

TransformIT Europe 2026: One year on: from kick-off to commercial reality

A year ago, we opened the doors of Brussels Expo with a simple conviction: Europe cannot decarbonise without digitising, and it cannot digitise without a clear sustainability compass. Twelve months on, that conviction has hardened into something more urgent.

The regulatory picture has tightened. CSRD timelines are biting, ETS II is approaching, CBAM is no longer theoretical, and the Omnibus package has reshaped how companies read their obligations. Meanwhile, a different pressure has arrived from an unexpected direction: artificial intelligence. Europe is racing to build AI gigafactories and scale compute capacity through the InvestAI initiative and fresh Horizon Europe funding, all while keeping the energy balance sheet honest. Sustainability and digital sovereignty, once discussed in separate rooms, are converging into a single strategic question.

That convergence defines our 2026 programme.

Our 2025 edition brought together leaders from BASF, Bosch, Schneider

Electric, Siemens and T-Systems, alongside European policymakers and a growing cohort of GreenTech challengers, to prove that a pan-European platform for sustainable transformation was needed. The response exceeded expectations. What began as a kick-off conference is now shaping up as a permanent marketplace, with the full GreenTech trade fair launching in May 2027.

For this edition, we have sharpened the agenda around what matters most today. AI sustainability has moved from niche concern to headline question: the environmental cost of our digital ambitions must be measured, not assumed, and answers must be engineered into the architecture itself. Circular economy follows close behind, because Europe's strategic autonomy will depend on closing material loops in electronics, batteries, and critical raw materials. And running through everything is a practical obsession with SME readiness. The companies that generate the bulk of Europe's business fabric cannot be left behind by rules designed for corporate giants.

The speakers we have gathered reflect this spread. Voices from industry, research institutes, and European institutions will share what is working, what is stalling, and where investment should flow. Our matchmaking platform, Marketplace format, and the GDG Future of European AI Conference are designed to turn conversations into partnerships before delegates leave Brussels.

Let me be direct. Europe is not short of technology. It is short of time to deploy what already exists. We have the science, the standards, the skilled engineers and the industrial base. What remains missing is coordination, commercial traction, and a venue where buyers and builders can meet without ceremony.

That is what these two days are for. Whether you arrive as a solution provider, a corporate buyer, a policymaker, or a founder chasing a first customer, you will find reasons to stay, and reasons to come back in 2027.

Welcome to Brussels ■

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MARKET DATA

Europe's transformation economy, in numbers

Between now and 2030, the curves that matter to European industry all bend sharply upward: AI compute, smart-building retrofits, circular-IT flows, and sovereign cloud spend. Each of the themes on the TransformIT 2026 stage has a market behind it, and none of those markets look the same as they did even twelve months ago. The snapshot below frames what is at stake in Brussels this May

**945
TWh by
2030**

AI & ENERGY

Global data-centre electricity consumption hit around 415 TWh in 2024, roughly 1.5% of the world total. The IEA base case puts that figure at 945 TWh by 2030, with AI-accelerated servers growing 30% per year. Europe alone will add 45 TWh of data-centre demand over the period, up 70%. In Ireland, the sector already swallows 21% of national electricity, projected to reach 32% in 2026.

SMART BUILDINGS

Buildings account for 40% of EU energy consumption and 36% of greenhouse gas emissions. Smart-building technologies can cut energy use by up to 30%. The European intelligent building market is on track to grow from €15.35 billion in 2025 to €18.22 billion in 2026, a CAGR of 18.72% through 2034.

**€18.22
billion in
2026**

**target of
15–
20%
annually**

CIRCULAR IT

Europe generates the highest per-capita e-waste of any continent at 16.2 kg per person, yet only 42.8% is formally recycled (still the best continental rate). Extending a laptop's useful life by three to four years cuts its cradle-to-grave carbon footprint by 70 to 80%. The European refurbished electronics market is compounding at 15 to 20% annually.

CSRD & AI-POWERED REPORTING

**ROI
of up to
300%**

Omnibus I (February 2026) removes roughly 80% of companies from original CSRD scope and trims ESRS data points by around 61%. For those still in scope, AI-native carbon platforms report time savings of up to 80% on data gathering and first-year ROI of up to 300%.

**up
6.3%**

DIGITAL SOVEREIGNTY

European tech spend will cross €1.5 trillion in 2026, up 6.3%. Yet three US hyperscalers still command 65% of the European cloud market. Sovereign-cloud IaaS spend is forecast to more than triple to \$23 billion by 2027. The EU Cloud and AI Development Act lands in Q1 2026, alongside plans for five AI gigafactories.

Sources : International Energy Agency, Energy and AI special report (April 2025) and Electricity Mid-Year Update 2025 · Carbon Brief, AI & data-centre analysis (September 2025) · European Commission, Energy Performance of Buildings Directive · European Environment Agency · Market Data Forecast, Europe Intelligent Building Market (March 2026) · ITU & UNITAR, Global E-waste Monitor 2024 · DTP Group, e-waste statistics 2026 · Circular electronics research (Northstar Consulting analysis, 2025) · M2E Cloud, European refurbished electronics analysis (February 2026) · Forrester, European Tech Market Forecast 2025 to 2030 (February 2026) · European DIGITAL SME Alliance (January 2026) · Gartner sovereign cloud outlook (February 2026) · Council of the European Union, Omnibus I Directive (24 February 2026) · CO2 AI and Greenly published customer benchmarks.

The Omnibus dividend: when reporting shrinks, strategy grows

Europe's sustainability calendar just got lighter. Omnibus I, adopted by the Council of the European Union on 24 February 2026, raises CSRD thresholds to 1,000 employees and €450 million in turnover, removing roughly 80% of companies originally in scope. The ESRS package itself has been trimmed by around 61% of its mandatory data points, and the Commission is targeting a 25% cut in administrative burden overall, 35% for SMEs.

That sounds like relief. It is not. Investors, lenders and corporate buyers have not relaxed their expectations by a single data point. What has changed is the geometry of the work. Companies that spent the past two years wiring reporting pipelines now find themselves with a surplus of something they never had: time.

The question Sébastien Leempoel will put to the TransformIT audience is what to do with it.

As CEO of Brussels-based carbon management platform D-Carbonize since January, Leempoel argues that reporting was never the destination. It was the scaffolding.

AI is what dismantles the scaffolding. Platforms now automate emission factor mapping, detect data anomalies, and turn spend ledgers into Scope 3 estimates in minutes rather than quarters. Once that floor is secured, the same data engine can simulate decarbonisation pathways, compare capex scenarios, and surface procurement hotspots worth millions.

That shift changes who owns the conversation. A CSRD report used to sit with the sustainability lead. A decarbonisation trajectory with a built-in P&L lands on the CFO's desk, and then the board's ■



Sébastien Leempoel

CEO, D-Carbonize, Belgium



Laili Ishaqzai

Co-founder & CEO, Molano, The Netherlands

The circular loop that actually closes

Europe talks a lot about circularity. It produces less of it. Of the e-waste generated across the bloc each year, only a fraction re-enters the economy as a working device. Yet the climate math is unambiguous: extending a laptop's useful life by three to four years cuts its cradle-to-grave carbon footprint by 70 to 80 percent. No AI model or green data centre delivers a comparable return per euro of capex.

That arithmetic is what Laili Ishaqzai, Founding Partner of Dutch refurbisher Molano, will bring to Brussels. Haarlem-based Molano, founded in 2021 and now 23-strong, specialises in the wholesale grading and re-commerce of Apple hardware, with a data-driven inspection pipeline that routes each device to the buyer segment where it holds most value. The company is rolling out a Refurbishment-as-a-Service model for corporate clients looking to

industrialise their IT lifecycle.

The regulatory wind is finally behind them. Ecodesign rules for smartphones and tablets took effect in June 2025, requiring repairability and durability by design. Digital Product Passports begin their phased rollout in 2026. The upcoming Circular Economy Act aims to consolidate the single market for secondary raw materials. The European refurbished electronics market is already compounding at 15 to 20 percent annually.

Ishaqzai's argument is a systems-level one, shaped by a legal background and years inside circular supply chains. Europe does not need more devices. It needs the ones it already has to last longer ■



The compute Europe already owns

Day 2 redefines what digital sovereignty looks like from the ground up

Brussels is funding five AI gigafactories. It is also, every year, throwing away millions of perfectly usable servers, laptops and phones.

The second day of TransformIT 2026 takes this paradox seriously, and draws a different map of Europe's digital future: one where sovereignty begins not in a new chip fab, but in the equipment cupboard of every European office.

The keynote sets the frame. **Loïc Ganza** opens the day with "Your IT's Second Life", an account of how European companies are turning surplus corporate hardware into CSRD-proof impact rather than shipping it to landfill or the grey market. What used to be an IT asset-disposal problem is becoming a sustainability metric on the balance sheet.

That shift reshuffles a familiar hierarchy. **Laili Ishaqzai** of Dutch refurbisher Molano inverts the classic R-ladder in her session Before the Pig, arguing that reduce and reuse should outrank recycling long before a device touches a shredder. Jan Hoogstrate, speaking for Free ICT Europe, goes further still. In Own Your Tech: Reclaiming Control Over IT, he makes the case that the IT aftermarket is not a sustainability sideshow but a strategic lever: the more freely businesses can repair, resell

and redeploy their hardware, the less dependent they are on upgrade cycles dictated elsewhere.

Then the conversation pivots. **Erin Beilharz**, co-founder of Navon World, closes the loop with a provocation dressed as engineering: Right-Fit AI Infrastructure for Europe: Distributed Inference on Pockets of Green Energy. Her argument is that Europe does not necessarily need to concentrate AI compute in a handful of mega-facilities. It can distribute inference across smaller nodes, positioned where clean electricity already exists and where existing hardware can be put to work.

Running through all of it, **Jens Mühlner** of T-Systems reframes the central question. AI, he argues in AI as a Sustainability Multiplier, is not a line item on the climate ledger. Deployed intelligently, it is the strongest digital lever Europe has for impact, efficiency and sustainable innovation.

Taken together, the day forms a quiet thesis. Digital sovereignty is usually debated at the cloud and chip layer. Below the cloud sits hardware, and below hardware, the question of who controls what Europe already has ■

16.2 kg

Average e-waste per capita in Europe, the highest of any continent.

42.8%

European e-waste formally recycled, still the best continental rate in the world.

70 to 80%

Reduction in a laptop's cradle-to-grave carbon footprint when its useful life is extended by three to four years.

15 to 20%

Annual growth rate of the European refurbished electronics market.

65%

Share of the European cloud services market held by three US hyperscalers.

5 AI gigafactories

planned under the EU's InvestAI initiative.

+45 TWh

Projected growth in European data-centre electricity demand by 2030, a 70% increase versus 2024.

Sources : ITU & UNITAR Global E-waste Monitor 2024, DTP Group (2026), Northstar Consulting / Circular Tech analysis (2025), M2E Cloud (February 2026), European DIGITAL SME Alliance (January 2026), European Commission InvestAI, IEA Energy and AI report (2025).



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