

GDI EUROPEAN CONFERENCE 2025
- 17 September 2025 -

10.00 - 10.30	Presentation: Beyond the Buzzwords: What Actually Matters in Online Dating Right Now A candid look at what the industry hypes, what really shapes the future, and how to build relevance in the next cycle. • <i>Carsten Böltz, CEO at Online Personals Group</i>
10.30 - 10.45	Presentation: Winning the Inbox: Smarter Email for Modern Matchmakers User engagement can make or break a dating app. This session explores the essential checks for deliverability, the three moments that matter most in the user journey, and how a multi-channel approach across email, push, and in-app helps brands build meaningful connections. • <i>James Deacon, Deliverability Strategist at Netcore</i> • <i>François Ismail, Senior Customer Success manager at Netcore</i> • <i>Hatem Ahmed, CEO at Inshallah</i>
10.45 - 11.05	Panel Debate: Beyond the Mainstream: How Niche Apps Will Redefine Connections in 2026 This forward-looking panel debate will explore how niche and purpose-driven apps are transforming digital connection, community-building, and dating as we head into 2026 - challenging the dominance of mainstream platforms and redefining how we interact online. • <i>Michael O'Sullivan, CEO at HubPeople - Moderator</i> • <i>Jamie Johnston, Founder & CEO of Matrr</i> • <i>Emma Sayle, CEO & Co-Founder at KK Group - Killing Kittens & WAX App</i> • <i>Ankit Nayal, Founder & CEO at Flamme and DatingX.ai</i> • <i>Tegan Broomfield, CEO & Founder of Evntful Dating</i>
11.05 - 11.20	Presentation: Building Trust at Scale: How a Unified, User-Owned Safety Badge Can Elevate Dating Platforms In this talk, Jen introduces the MyAngel Badge — a user-owned, opt-in safety solution that integrates seamlessly into your app. • <i>Jen Schuster, Founder at My Angel Technologies</i>
BREAK	
11.45 - 12.15	Presentation: Industry Trends & Opportunities for Growth Industry analyst Mark Brooks, CEO of Courtland Brooks, delivers an exclusive growth forecast for the online dating and social connection space highlighting key trends, emerging markets, and what to expect in 2026 and beyond. • <i>Mark Brooks, CEO at Courtland Brooks</i>
12.15 - 12.30	Presentation: Expats, Runners and Dog owners, how Inner Circle is building lifestyle communities around the world. Inner Circle is expanding beyond dating to create vibrant lifestyle communities for expats, runners, and dog owners. This session explores how the brand is connecting

	people globally through shared interests and real-world experiences.” • <i>David Vermulan, CEO at Inner Circle</i>
12.30 - 12:45	Fireside Interview: From Dating Affiliate to White Label Owner Join this in-depth conversation around Nicky’s remarkable journey from dating affiliate to the owner of M14, a white-label dating solution. • <i>Nicky Wake, CEO of Chapter 2 Dating & M14</i>
12.45 - 13:00	Presentation: Love Within Reach: Rethinking Distance with Drive Time Love Within Reach: Rethinking Distance with Drive Time explores how redefining proximity can transform modern dating. By focusing on travel time instead of miles. • <i>Phil Defrancesco, Head of Product at Inrix</i>
LUNCH	
13.45 - 14.00	Presentation: U.S. Patent Law v. The Online Dating Industry In light of the hundreds of patent-infringement cases brought in the U.S. against online-dating platforms, this presentation will provide a high-level overview of U.S. patent law, what to watch for, and what to do if threatened or sued. • <i>Aaron Jacobs, Attorney at Prince Lobel Tye LLP</i>
14.00 - 14.30	Presentation: Understanding the Economics of Dating Understanding the Economics of Dating explores the business models, revenue streams, and market forces shaping today’s online dating and social discovery industry. • <i>Michael O’Sullivan, CEO at HubPeople</i>
14.30 - 15.00	Fireside Interview: Are you compliant - what the Online Safety Act means for Dating Apps The Online Safety Act makes online services with users in the UK – including dating apps – legally responsible for keeping adults safe. Ofcom’s role is to make sure services comply with their new obligations, and take action to build a safer life online. Learn what the Online Safety Act means for your brand. • <i>Héloïse Martorell Senior Associate at Ofcom</i>
BREAK	
15.15 - 15.30	Presentation: Pay-Per-Match: An alternative to freemium pricing. Most apps leave 95% unmonetized. Learn how Hearts turns mutual matches into one-time fees with patented messaging, no subscriptions and new users. • <i>Hari Gopalakrishnan at Hearts Dating</i>

15.30 - 16.00	Panel Debate: Love and Localisation: Cracking India's 1.5 Billion-Person Dating Puzzle This expert panel dives into the unique challenges and opportunities of localising dating experiences for India's diverse and rapidly evolving market—exploring cultural nuances, technology adaptations, and strategies to unlock the country's vast potential. • <i>Simon Corbett, Founder of GDI, Moderator</i> • <i>Sunil Hiranandani, Founder at Sirf Coffee</i> • <i>Aryavrat Goenka, CEO of UrbanMatch - (V)</i> • <i>Snehil Khanor, CEO at TrulyMadly - (V)</i> • <i>Abhishek Kashyap, CEO at Rekindle - (V)</i>
CLOSE	