

Chris Decubber - CV

° 20 July 1968 (M)
Nationality: Belgian



Highlights

1. Extensive Leadership in European Manufacturing & Innovation Ecosystems

Chris Decubber has played a pivotal role in shaping European manufacturing research and innovation programmes, particularly through his involvement with the European Factories of the Future Research Association (EFFRA) and the 'Factories of the Future' and 'Made in Europe' Partnerships under the Horizon 2020 and Horizon Europe programmes. He has facilitated strategic partnerships, working groups, and negotiations with the European Commission.

2. Broad Stakeholder Engagement and Community Building

Chris has worked with industry, associations, research organisations, universities, and government bodies, facilitating community building and knowledge sharing.

3. Multilingual and Technical Expertise with an Entrepreneurial Mindset

Chris possesses advanced language skills in Dutch, French and English, basic skills in German, and holds a Master's degree in Electro-Mechanical Engineering from KU Leuven. Chris is the founder and owner of Chris Decubber BV, also managing the development and maintenance of a digital platform for project portfolio management, information sharing and networking.

Education

KU LEUVEN

KU Leuven - Master, Electro-Mechanical Engineering 1986 – 1991

Language skills

	Reading/Understanding	Speaking	Writing
Dutch (Flemish)	Mother tongue		
French	Advanced		
English	Advanced		
German	Advanced	Intermediate	Novice

Professional experience



Chris Decubber BV, Founder and owner (October 2017 – Present)

Service contracts with EFFRA, Agoria, Flanders Make, etc.

Managing the development and maintenance of a digital platform for project portfolio management, information sharing and analysis and networking.

.AGORIA

Belgian Federation of technology companies from the manufacturing, digital, and telecom sectors.

Programme Manager Make the Future and manager of the **Factory of the Future Partnership** (Service contract through Chris Decubber BV, March 2025 – April 2026)

Organising the certification process of manufacturing companies to obtain the 'Factory of the Future' label and organising the associated Factory of the Future Award Event. Laying the foundations of the integration of Agoria and Sirris service delivery within the framework of the Factory of the Future methodology developed by Agoria and Sirris.



European Factories of the Future Research Association

General Consultant

(Service contract through Chris Decubber BV, October 2017 – February 2025)

Preparing, in consultation with all stakeholders (industry and industry associations, research & technology organisations, universities, member state representatives, the European Commission) the establishment of the 'Made in Europe' Partnership, within the 'Horizon Europe' Research and innovation funding programme (2021-2027). 'Made in Europe' is the follow-up of the 'Factories of the Future' Public Private Partnership, where EFFRA is also the European Association representing the private side.

Supporting the implementation of the Partnership in terms of monitoring the projects and supporting information dissemination.

Supporting different rounds of negotiations with the European Commission regarding the calls for project proposals (Work Programmes 2021-22, 2023-24, 2025 and 2026-27), including regular consultations on research and development priorities.

Setting up and facilitating EFFRA internal Working Groups for community building and knowledge sharing in key domains (Productivity-Flexibility, Circularity, Humans in Manufacturing, Manufacturing requirements for the energy and transport system sectors, Exploitation of R&D results).



European Factories of the Future Research Association

Technical Director

(Employee, January 2015 – September 2017)

Supporting the R&D project portfolio management of the Factories of the future Public Private Partnership, as well as the fine-tuning of the Strategic Research Agenda in view of the calls for proposals 2018-19-20. Supporting general association management matters and consultation with industrial companies, associations and R&D organisations/universities across Europe.



European Factories of the Future Research Association

Research Programme Manager

(Service contract via **Agoria**, February 2010 – December 2014)

Coordinating the compilation of the Strategic Research and Innovation Agenda that provides the baseline of the Public-Private Partnership with the European Commission. Portfolio management of the R&D projects, supporting networking and information dissemination actions by the association.

.AGORIA

Belgian Federation of technology companies from the manufacturing, digital, and telecom sectors.

Expert Innovation at Agoria

(Employee, September 2008 – December 2014)

Partially (until December 2009) serving the Agoria Business group 'Construction Products', taking care of the Lift sector.

From the perspective of Agoria, supporting the representation of Agoria in the actions that prepared the establishment of the European Factories of the Future Public-Private Partnership and the foundation of EFFRA, the association that represents the private side within this Partnership.



Decubber Project Assistance BVBA, Founder and Owner (February 2002 – September 2008)

Research networking and associated services. As of 2003 this included supporting Agoria in the area of European R&D lobby and networking. From 2005 to 2007, coordination of an EU funded Coordination and Support Action 'EUMECHA-PRO' that was initiated with Agoria, bringing together the major European Research organisations on mechatronics for production systems.

**Head of Technical Department**

(Employee, January 1999 – December 2001)

Monitoring and collecting contributions to European Regulations and Directives, including the EMC directive (Electro-Magnetic Compatibility).

European Research: Managing Coordination Actions and project clustering activities.



Collective technology centre of the Belgian technological industry, founded by Agoria

Project Engineer

(Employee, September 1993 – December 1998)

EU projects: Participation in 'METACOST' project on cost calculation. Participation and coordination of the projects MAREA and MW-1 on modularity of machine tools.

Coordination of Flemish project for awareness making and stocktaking on laser-based manufacturing (in cooperation with VITO) ; supporting the initiation of a laser cutting R&D project with LVD.