# London startup Valla raises £2 million to widen access to employment law amid surging European tech funding



This week saw a significant surge in tech funding across Europe, with more than 85 deals amounting to over €2.1 billion, alongside a flurry of mergers, acquisitions, and noteworthy developments. Among the standout funding rounds was the announcement that Valla, a London-based legal support startup, has successfully raised £2 million to broaden access to employment law services for millions of individuals across the UK. This initiative aligns with broader efforts to empower those who have historically faced barriers in seeking legal recourse, particularly in employment contexts riddled with discrimination.

Valla was co-founded by Danae Shell and Dr. Kate Ho, who have actively designed the platform to facilitate a more accessible, "do-it-yourself" approach to resolving employment issues. This model is specifically aimed at individuals unable to afford traditional legal services. The founders assert that eliminating financial barriers is crucial for empowering employees to confront workplace discrimination, which can manifest in various forms, including racial, sexual, disability, and maternity discrimination. By collaborating with organisations supporting marginalised communities, Valla seeks to challenge systemic issues and advocate for cultural shifts within workplaces. Speaking about their mission, Shell underscored the company's commitment to creating technology that serves those who have often felt powerless within their workplaces.

In the wider funding landscape, notable transactions included Nebius, a full-stack AI firm, raising an impressive $1 billion for its AI cloud platform development, and Believ, an electric vehicle charge point operator in the UK, securing a £300 million investment to deploy at least 30,000 charge points across the country. These investments reflect a growing trend towards sustainability and innovation within the tech space.

Amid these developments, the conversation around social impact investing gained traction, particularly marked by a recent forum featuring Bono and TPG's Jim Coulter. They discussed the importance of embedding social responsibility within investment strategies, emphasising that modern investors increasingly seek financial returns in tandem with tangible environmental and social outcomes. Coulter highlighted the urgency of aligning corporate strategies with societal challenges and noted the significant growth in private capital focused on sustainable development. He remarked that while impact investing faces hurdles, effective measurement and accountability will play a vital role in attracting more investment into this crucial area.

As Europe continues to navigate its complex economic landscape, the emphasis on both innovation and social responsibility appears to be underscoring a transformative shift in how industries contribute to society. The emerging focus on legal accessibility for those confronting discrimination aligns seamlessly with this ethos, marking a significant step towards a more equitable future for many employees across Europe.

### 📌 Reference Map:

* Paragraph 1 – [[1]](https://tech.eu/2025/06/06/valla-increases-access-to-employment-law-for-millions-and-bono-on-social-impact-investing/), [[2]](https://flockmag.com/danae-shell-were-building-tech-for-everyone-who-has-ever-felt-powerless/)
* Paragraph 2 – [[2]](https://flockmag.com/danae-shell-were-building-tech-for-everyone-who-has-ever-felt-powerless/)
* Paragraph 3 – [[1]](https://tech.eu/2025/06/06/valla-increases-access-to-employment-law-for-millions-and-bono-on-social-impact-investing/), [[3]](https://www.bloomberg.com/news/videos/2017-01-18/tpg-s-coulter-mcglashnan-on-social-impact-investing), [[4]](https://www.bloomberg.com/news/videos/2021-10-15/tpg-s-coulter-says-companies-will-be-held-more-accountable-video), [[7]](https://www.marketscreener.com/quote/stock/TPG-INC-131624703/news/TPG-Insights-TPG-Insights-Impact-Investing-The-Road-Ahead-43469769/)

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## Bibliography

1. <https://tech.eu/2025/06/06/valla-increases-access-to-employment-law-for-millions-and-bono-on-social-impact-investing/> - Please view link - unable to able to access data
2. <https://flockmag.com/danae-shell-were-building-tech-for-everyone-who-has-ever-felt-powerless/> - Valla, a legal support startup co-founded by Danae Shell and Dr. Kate Ho, aims to make legal assistance more accessible for individuals facing workplace discrimination. The platform offers a 'DIY' approach to resolving employment issues, targeting those who cannot afford traditional legal services. Valla collaborates with organizations supporting marginalized communities to address various forms of discrimination, including racial, sexual, disability, and maternity discrimination. The founders emphasize the importance of empowering employees to challenge unfair treatment and advocate for systemic change in workplace environments.
3. <https://www.bloomberg.com/news/videos/2017-01-18/tpg-s-coulter-mcglashnan-on-social-impact-investing> - In a 2017 interview, Jim Coulter and Bill McGlashan of TPG discuss the firm's approach to social impact investing through The RISE Fund. They highlight the growing demand for investments that deliver both financial returns and positive social outcomes. The conversation touches on the challenges of measuring impact and the importance of integrating social responsibility with corporate effectiveness. Coulter and McGlashan emphasize the need for private capital to support sustainable development goals and address global challenges through strategic investments.
4. <https://www.bloomberg.com/news/videos/2021-10-15/tpg-s-coulter-says-companies-will-be-held-more-accountable-video> - Jim Coulter, co-founder of TPG, discusses the evolving landscape of impact investing and the increasing accountability of companies in addressing social and environmental issues. He reflects on the growth of private equity and the emergence of impact investing as a significant sector. Coulter emphasizes the importance of aligning business objectives with societal benefits and the role of private capital in driving positive change. He also touches on the challenges and opportunities in integrating impact considerations into investment strategies.
5. <https://www.bloomberg.com/news/videos/2016-05-09/tpg-s-coulter-investments-focused-on-disruptions> - Jim Coulter of TPG discusses the firm's investment strategy, focusing on identifying disruptions and innovative companies that bridge traditional and new economies. He highlights investments in companies like Uber and Airbnb, emphasizing the importance of growth and value creation. Coulter explains that investing is not solely about market share but about finding insights and opportunities for extraordinary growth. He notes that in an environment with low interest rates, growth becomes particularly valuable, and TPG aims to create value through such growth.
6. <https://www.bloomberg.com/news/videos/2019-01-24/tpg-s-coulter-sees-mood-of-uncertainty-at-davos-video> - At the 2019 World Economic Forum in Davos, Jim Coulter of TPG discusses the mood of uncertainty among global leaders and the challenges of integrating impact investing into mainstream capital markets. He talks about the creation of Why Analytics, a public benefit corporation spun out from TPG to provide tools for measuring and reporting impact. Coulter emphasizes the need for effective measurement and reporting structures to attract more capital into the impact investing space and address global challenges.
7. <https://www.marketscreener.com/quote/stock/TPG-INC-131624703/news/TPG-Insights-TPG-Insights-Impact-Investing-The-Road-Ahead-43469769/> - Jim Coulter, co-founder of TPG, discusses the firm's impact investing strategy and the growing recognition of its importance in the market. He highlights the alignment of impact investing with responsible business initiatives and the increasing interest from limited partners in environmental, social, and governance (ESG) programs. Coulter notes that while the impact investing marketplace, particularly in climate investing, still requires more capital, there are significant opportunities in sectors like decarbonization and climate technology.