

## In this Update:

### Entrepreneurial Hotspots

**Estonia:** Tallinn; **Finland:** Turku; **Germany:** Berlin, Lübeck, Hamburg, Leipzig, Munich; **Poland:** Poznan  
**USA:** Memphis; Tennessee  
**Singapore**

### New on SPICA World Map

Denmark, Finland, Egypt, Estonia  
France, Germany, Netherlands,  
Singapore, South Korea, Thailand,  
United Arab Emirates

### Reports from

Australia, Belgium, Estonia,  
Finland, France, Germany, Ghana,  
Ireland, Latvia, Lebanon,  
Lithuania, Mexico, Morocco,  
Netherlands, Niger, Poland, Qatar,  
Russia, Senegal, South Africa,  
Spain, Russia, Singapore, South  
Korea, Switzerland, Thailand,  
United Arab Emirates, United  
Kingdom and USA

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## Spacemob - Co-working Space from Singapore plans to expand in Asia



In addition to its first co-working location at Claymore opened in October 2016, spacemob (backed by Vertex Ventrues) now has launched another location at Singapore Science Park. **Spacemob Ascent** offers 1,300 m<sup>2</sup> of space and is part of a partnership with Ascendas-Singbridge, a provider of sustainable urban solutions across 29 cities in Asia. The new co-working space is located in the new Ascendas-Singbridge

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## NUMA extends its global Activities to Berlin and New York

Five years ago NUMA started the co-working activities in Paris. But already since 2001 the initiative was growing roots with developing the entrepreneurship ecosystem as association Silicon Sentier“ resulting in the first co-working hub in France, since 2014 named NUMA. Meanwhile NUMA has expanded and is now present at [Barcelona](#)



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## CTIC Dakar brings the Senegalese ICT Innovation System together

Being the first ICT focused business incubator in Western Africa, CTOC Dakar since establishment in 2011 CTIC has put emphasis on connecting the entrepreneurship ecosystem of Dakar and be-



yond. Buntuteki, a program focused on university students is just one of the examples for CTIC initiatives to develop innovation based entrepreneurship in the country.

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## Coming up for the Calendar

### ECHELON Thailand 2017

More than 1,000 professionals will attend the **Echelon Thailand** technology and business conference in **Bangkok, May 15-16, 2017.**

More details on page 3 and [website](#)



### PBICA Anniversary Confer-

The 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary of PBICA will be celebrated at the 27<sup>th</sup> Annual conference of the Association in Olsztyn, Poland, **May 22-24, 2017**

More details on page 3, 18 and [website](#)



### PIONEERZ Festival 2017

Vienna will host the 2017 Pioneerz Festival in the Hofburg with 5.000 participants expected..

More information on [website](#)



### Startup Echelon Summit 2017

The Echelon Asia Summit 2017 in Singapore, June 28- 29 is expected to attract about 6,000 participants

More details on [website](#)



### OPEN Ecosystems for Innovation

The Annual Congress of EBN will be held July 5 – 7 in Enghien-les Bains north of Paris under the title “OPEN Ecosystems for Innovation”.

More details on EBN [website](#)



### TOA Tech Open Air Berlin

July 11-14: **TOA** conference connects entrepreneurs, artists and scientists to explore the city at **satellite events**

More on TOA [website](#)



### BVIZ Annual Conference

Sep 17-19 UniTransferKlinik and TZ Lübeck will host the annual BVIZ conference 2017

More on page 19 and [website](#)



we provide just a selection of important events coming up. For more events during coming months, visit the [SPICE Events page](#)

# Around the Globe

## “New Frontiers”

### Ireland’s Entrepreneurs Development Program 2017 started

Under the name “**New Frontiers Programme**” the Entrepreneurs Development Program 2017 of Ireland has started in February / March with public information events in iHub Galway iHub Castlebar and at Moy Valley Resources, Bunree, Ballina. The program aims at developing entrepreneurs throughout Ireland and phase 1 applications will open soon.

Funded by Enterprise Ireland “New Frontiers” is locally delivered by GMIT Innovation Hubs (Galway & Mayo).

People with an innovative idea and planning to establish a company, or already are at an early stage of development can receive from the New Frontiers Program funding, help, training, mentoring and



support to develop the new business. Participants can remain in their own office, enterprise center, start-up hub, work from home and/or select to move to one of the GMIT Innovation Hubs.

**Contact:** Tony O’Kelly [email](#)  
**SDO Profile** [iHub Galway](#), [iHub Mayo](#) and [Moy Valley](#)

## VIVA Tech 2017

### 50,000 Attendees expected at Tech Event in Paris

After 45,000 people attended VIVATech last year, organizers now expect 50,000 attendees for 2017 in Paris Expo Porte de Versailles, June 15-17, 2017.



VivaTech was initiated to celebrate innovation, to build meaningful relationships, and help dynamic startups engage with proven leaders to come up with business solutions that will change business and society. Individuals and organizations from around the world are invited to meet and unleash their creative power. The main themes of VivaTech will cover technological disruption and will offer information about tech’s role in the future of society and industry: Emerging trends in innovation, success stories and best practices, and the social impact.

**Labs** hosted by market leaders, to bring together big companies and startups to co-create the best solutions to challenges

facing business and society.

**Hall of Tech** is a living display of premises, global launches and showcases. The Hall is a central arena featuring drone and robots, a sparkling musical setlist, most advanced VR/AR and AI experiences, and a main stage with keynote speakers, awards and pitches.

**Conference** featuring inspiring thinkers, visionaries, entrepreneurs, lead-

ers and game-changers at talks, roundtables and workshops redefining business.

**Accelerator** gives startups insider access to investment funds, corporates, incubators, consulting firms and other resources

**Pitches** are offering a platform to startups to grab the attention of investors, to spot a startup that can solve a problem, and to form an early business partnership.

**Awards** to recognize the best talent and promote the most promising startups with awards including mentorships, accelerator slots, POC funding, cash prizes, and other investments.

Tickets on VIVATech [website](#)  
**Contact** for information: VIVATech team, [email](#) Press contact Yael Kusch [email](#)

## 10<sup>th</sup> Cooperation Forum “Russia-Europe:”

The nine earlier events brought together 1,314 Russian and 463 European companies for 3,079 bilateral negotiations.

This year the Moscow Entrepreneurs Association will hold the 10<sup>th</sup> Annual B2B Forum “**Russia-Europe: Cooperation without Frontiers**” on June 29 - 30, 2017. in Moscow.

The Forum agenda includes three roundtables during the first day: : «Doing business in Russia», «EU experience in helping SMEs to be dynamic, sustainable and innovative», «European SMEs in Russia», plenary session “Fostering Russia – EU industrial cooperation”. For networking the buffet-dinner will provide plenty of opportunities.

The second day will offer face-to-face meetings between Russian and European companies, potential investors and investment promotion institutions.

Participation is free, no deadline for registration, no limitation on with whom to meet and no limitation on sector basis

**Contact:** Andrei Akopov, [email](#)  
More details and registration on [website](#)  
**SDO Profile** [MEA](#)

## Heracles organizes Startup Camp

Startup Camp, to be held May 8 to June 16, 2017 in Mons, is an acceleration program focused on content the participants need for their project.

During 6 weeks participants can challenge



their ideas with their customers. This full-time program is filled with challenges and adventures alongside other project leaders attend the camp. The coaches of Heracles provide necessary input and support.

**Contact:** Philippe Chevremont [email](#)  
**SDO Profile** [Heracles](#)

## AgriTech Exchange Program for Startups in Australia and Latin America

Australian Startups maintain excellent connections with Asian businesses and now reach out for Latin America. SproutX, an accelerator specialized in agriTech startups since end of March 2017 is partnering with Nxtp Labs, a seed fund and accelerator active in Argentina, Chile, Colombia, Mexico and Uruguay. The initiative is supported by Austrade and Qantas and was launched by Ricardo Negri, vice minister for agriculture in Argentina, saying. "Argentina is one of the few countries in the world that has considerable capacity to increase domestic agricultural production, but to be successful we need to rely on technology to transform our industry in a sustainable way. This program provides access to new technologies and new global value chains,"



according *StartupSmart*, an online newsletter of Melbourne-based Private Media Pty Ltd. The new exchange program offers a one-week immersion program in Latin America.



The winning team of the next SproutX cohort may chose the country and will be assisted with key meetings and opportunities for developing partnerships. NxtP Labs will host the Australian team while SproutX will do the same for startup from Latin America.

**Applications** is now open for SproutX's six-month accelerator which offers \$40,000 for an 8-10% equity stake for the cohort starting in May.

**Contact:** SproutX, Sam Trethewey [email](#) and Nxtp Labs, Ariel Arrieta, [email](#) **SDO Profile** [SproutX](#) and [NXTP Labs](#)

## Scale-Up Vaud

### Swiss Canton evaluates Program for Growth Firms



Vaud is a Canton of Switzerland with Lausanne being the main city. Although just little more than 770,000 inhabitants are living in the part of the country, it is rich in technology and entrepreneurship with several technology parks, incubators and accelerators active.

**Innovaud**, created in 2013 is an association aiming to be the gateway to innovation in the canton of Vaud. It was set up by governmental organizations, the 6 active technopoles in the canton of Vaud, the Foundation for Technological Innovation (FIT), and the Vaud Association for the Promotion of Innovation and Technology (AIT) to help start-ups and innovative SMEs by quickly connecting them with the right people in order to realize their

potential if they need accommodation, funding and / or coaching. One year after the launch of [Scale-Up Vaud](#), the first high potential business support program in Switzerland the outcomes were evaluated. The program has been initiated to offer targeted support, specifically to innovative, growing companies that create jobs in the canton. 14 scale-ups last year accounted for a total of 899 jobs, of which 632 in Switzerland, measured in January 2017. During the year 2016 they created 140 jobs in Switzerland. These innovative scale-ups benefit from the Scale-Up Vaud label, which aims to enhance them and support their growth. Two new companies are now joining the Vaud scale-ups, bringing their number to 16. Participating scale-ups have an average of 9.2 years of existence, show annual employment growth of 29% between January 1, 2014 and January 1, 2017, and have created 140 jobs in 2016 in Switzerland.

More information is available on Scale-Up Vaud [website](#) under "statistics".

**SDO Profile** [Innovaud](#) and [Scale-Up Vaud](#) **Contact:** Scale-Up Vaud, [email](#) and Rémi Walbaum, [email](#)

## ECHELON Thailand 2017 "Breaking Barriers Forging Future"

More than 1,000 industry leaders and professionals are expected to attend **Echelon Thailand**, a two-day technology and business conference held annually in **Bangkok, May 15-16, 2017**. Organized by e27, the event offers premium resources from influencers, cross-border business matching and structured networking opportunities, keeping the ecosystem engaged all throughout the year through a digital platform.

ECHELON THAILAND 2017 offers



access to **information** to the latest developments, insights & resources generated by influencers in Asia's tech ecosystem, provides **premium resources** through thought leaders and subject matter experts. In an array of multimedia formats and events, **ecosystem intelligence** with business insights on the latest tech news and funding activity, as well as **connections** and access to **talent** and **funding**. More information on [website](#)

## GTEC now also in Frankfurt / Main



GTEC, the German Tech Entrepreneurship Center, already operating two campuses in Berlin in April 2017 opened its new facilities in Frankfurt / Main. For this initiative GTEC is partnering with Union Investment and Tishman Speyer. The official opening ceremony on April 20 introduced GTEC Frankfurt to the entrepreneurship ecosystem of the city. **Contact:** GTEC Team [email](#) **SDO Profile:** [GTEC Frankfurt](#)



## 25<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of Polish Innovation Centers Association

PBICA at its 27<sup>th</sup> annual conference in Olsztyn, Poland to be held **May 22 – 24, 2017** with a focus on internationalization of startups and incubators will celebrate the 25<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the association. More on conference [website](#). **Contact** Marzena Mazewska [email](#); **SDO Profile** [PBICA](#)

## South Korea – Gangnam is more than a Youtube Hit

South Korea is not on the generally known list of startup hotspots. Good reason for having a look at what is going on there regarding entrepreneurship.

KOTRA, the Korea Trade Investment Promotion Agency, a government organization to promote Korean foreign trade took initiative to inform German startups about opportunities in the Asian country. Having an office in Hamburg, KOTRA invited for an event in the co-working space [Mindspace](#). Samsung and LG are Korean companies known by most people (at least for their mobile phones or TV sets), but not much is known about South Korean entrepreneurship ecosystem. The use of mobile phones is widespread and country has the fastest internet globally – generally seen as a good prerequisite for a lively startup scene. However, it seems that South Korea has not yet tackled its potential.

Almost 59 million people have clicked the YouTube video “Gangnam Style”, but how many of them know that Gangnam is a



district of Seoul, the district that is seen as the center of the South Korean startup scene. Almost half of the South Korean population of 51 million is living in the Seoul metropolitan area. The number of startups estimated to be about 3,500. This number does not tell much. The understanding of the term “startups” varies and

therefore national / regional statistics are hardly comparable. But, in any case this number seems to suggest that the country has room for an increase.

To support internationalization of Korean startups and to open the country for new companies from abroad, KOTRA since some years is organizing “K-Startup” events in European cities, for example, London and Berlin as well as in Korea.

There are some 30 incubators and accelerators active in Seoul. For example, one of them, [Sparklabs](#), is claiming having organized the largest demo day in the world with 1,800 attendees and now is working with its eighth batch of clients. One of the newer arrivals is the “[SeoulGSC](#)” (Seoul Global Startup Center) that since June 2016 helps startups from abroad to enter the Korean market. At this time SeoulGSC is still open for **applications** for the second batch of startups – **deadline is April 14, 2017**.

**Contact:** KOTRA Germany, [email](#) : **SDO Profiles** [KOTRA](#), [Mindspace Hamburg](#), [Seoul GSC](#), and [Sparklabs](#)

## iSpace Foundation unlocks Women in Technology

The new initiative of [iSpace](#) Foundation in Accra, Ghana aims “to harness the use of technology in mobilizing women and to utilize the skills of the Diaspora community in reaching this goal.

The initiative “**Unlocking Women in Technology**” (UWAT) is funded by Comic Relief and led by iSpace Foundation (GH) working in “Technology is of interest only to men” was the attitude of the past. Involving more women in technology is a matter of partnership with Ghana Code Club, Mobile Web Ghana, Sankofa Africa and The Radical Leap Company (UK). “Technology is of interest only to men”

caused already by early education as “schools are not doing enough to foster girls' interest in or enthusiasm for technology”. Also career advisors lack sufficient knowledge about how to advise women on how to access the IT sector successfully and the number of young women choosing to study IT is low, yet the sector is as accessible to them as it is to young men. On this background iSpace Foundation (GH),



was the attitude of the past. Involving more women in technology is a matter of increasing importance globally to counteract the lack of gender diversity. Although there still is a significant skills gap in the sector an increasing number of initiatives is active from school to entrepreneurship. The initiators of UWAT see the problem

in collaboration with local and international partners, has put together a program to challenge gender stereotypes in tech and create various platforms for women (both young and more mature) to access opportunities that will help them see technology as a viable career as well as a tool for business growth. The programs and courses include Coding, Business Management, Entrepreneurship, Professional Networking and Pitching {for Funding}. Also, UWAT aims to create an ecosystem that offers training and the right support for women to thrive professionally.

More on [website](#) **Contact:** UWAT Team [email](#); iSapce, Fiifi Baidoo **SDO Profiles** [iSpace](#); [UWAT](#)

## NUMA expands globally

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[Bengaluru](#), [Casablanca](#), [Mexico City](#), and [Moscow](#). The aim is to be present in about 15 countries world-wide.



The latest addition to this network is Berlin where NUMA will start activities in September, [New York](#) will follow later.

Since April preparations are under way in cooperation with the co-working space [Spielfeld](#) and the digital hub [GTEC](#).

The focus of NUMA locations outside France is put on serving startups from France to access the respective startup ecosystem, find partners and collaborator, and expand internationally. The other focus of NUMA is on Open Innovation Program that, for example, provides advice and training regarding digitalization. Typical for NUMA is cooperation with experienced local partners and at this time does not have its own location in the city, but CEO of NUMA Berlin is Darius Moeini, who worked at GTEC Berlin as Director; NUMA now is looking for a startup manager.

**Contact:** Darius Moeini, [email](#) and NUMA Paris [email](#)

# 31<sup>st</sup> InBIA International Conference

## Meeting Place for the World of Business Incubation

by Barbara Harley

The 31<sup>st</sup> InBIA International Conference on Business Incubation titled “Building Thriving Entrepreneurial Ecosystems” was held in Seattle, Washington, end of March 2017 with about 600 participants from 30+ countries attending.

### BIG Summit

Before the conference the all-day “**Business Incubation Global (BIG) Summit**” was led jointly by InBIA’s CEO, Kirstie Chadwick, Senior Director of Global Programs, David Fonseca, and by the U.S.



Department of State Foreign Affairs Officer, Brett Hamsik. Highlights of the day, attended by about 230 participants from 30 countries included (1) Representatives of Canada, Colombia, India, Jordan, Mexico, and South Africa described **Ecosystem Development Strategies** in their countries (2) Successful networking arrangements designed through a matchmaking App that allowed to sign up with another attendee during the four pre-matched speed networking sessions; and (3) A detailed talk by Robert Sanders, Head of International Projects at EBN Innovation Network. He described EBN’s new Soft Landing initiative with initially three partners: Brazil (CEBRABIC), China (ericena), and NearUS (InBIA). These will be 2-way programs with funding EU’s Horizon **InBIA Conference**

The conference included 4 **keynote speakers** who were interesting, entertaining, and highly provocative: **John Harthorne** founder of MassChallenge, the nonprofit accelerator and competition headquartered in Boston with a global network in the UK, Israel, Switzerland, and Mexico. He focused on the need for nonprofit and for-profit startups to refuse to give up the effort to reach their goals. **Steven Koltai**, consultant, and a senior advisor to the U.S. State Department, is author of *Peace Through Through Entrepreneurship* the basic message of which was that massive investments in the creation of meaningful



John Harthorne



Steven Koltai



Victor Hwang



Steve Kessel

jobs and entrepreneurship in developing economies will lead to peace. **Steve Kessel**, Senior VP at Amazon gave a surprisingly, thorough description of the methods Amazon uses to create new products through small teams, members of may be

rewarded for their skills even if the idea was not turned into successful products. **Victor Hwang**, VP of Entrepreneurship at at The Kauffman Foundation, and former Silicon Valley entrepreneur and investor, spoke about the many efforts to build innovative ecosystems and about the new directions being planned by The Kauffman Foundation.

Approx. 25 **Conference Sessions** were presented each day (March 27 and 28), divided among six tracks entitled *Serving Entrepreneurs*, *Entrepreneurial Ecosystems*, *University Systems*, *Industry Trends and Innovations*, *Best Practices in Operations*, and *Specialty Topics*. The sessions offered many approaches to developing ecosystems. These included examples of entrepreneurial ecosystems that are university-centered; are located in suburbs, rural, and small places; are focused on students to create a pipeline to future entrepreneurs; are part of the redevelopment process of older, decaying cities; and are located in complex developing economies.

Within a session entitled *Helping Companies Enter Foreign Markets: New Ideas and Opportunities*, **Robert Sanders** included some of the details from his BIG Summit presentation stressing the ways in which US companies could become involved. Also in this session, **Lou Cooperhouse** of Rutgers University’s Food Innovation Center described how it attracted international food compa-



nies and described the market entry support they are giving currently to ones from Spain, Greece, Israel, Italy, Jamaica, and Colombia. **Alfredo Coppola**, Co-CEO of Silicon Valley’s US Market Access Center, described how international growth companies can benefit from experiencing the energy and creativity of Silicon Valley’s ecosystem even at an early stage in their development.

In the session, *Entrepreneurial tems Across the Globe*, (which I moderated), **Leandro Pompermaier**, incubator manager from Brazil, presented opportunities developed by RAIAR-PUCHS that form the various components of the local ecosystem in Rio Grande do Sul, the southern most state in Brazil, that includes the support system of the city of Rio Grande and the influences of Porto Alegre. Jordanian presenter, **Eman Hadweh Sa’id**, described the broad ecosystem supporting the tech sector in Jordan and is expanding entrepreneurship among its students and graduates. She announced the news released just that morning that Amazon had agreed to buy Souq.com, the Arab region’s largest retailer. Although the two companies did not disclose the

deal terms, Souq.com (based in Dubai), had been recently valued at nearly \$1 billion. Two of its partners are Jordanian entrepreneurs who developed a previous company bought by Yahoo. Also during that session **Bettina Vossberg** CEO of [High Tech-Startbahn](#) in Dresden, described the research project conducted to compare and draw lessons from the thriving ecosystems in Dresden, Grenoble, Trentino, Eindhoven, and Helsinki. She described the process being used and some preliminary results. The final report is expected to be available at the end of the year.

A Pitch Competition on March 29 and a tour of innovation spaces in Seattle completed the experience.

Finally some **Personal Observations**: It appears that *continued on next page ...*



## Bank Building becomes University Venture Hub

The Henry W. Bloch School of Management, University of Missouri-Kansas City has launched a new Venture Hub, an incubator for entrepreneurial in pre-launch stages.

The Venture Hub is working in a building that was emptied by the Country Club Bank that supports the new incubator to tackle the potential from putting the bank's ability to meet the financial needs of the Venture Hub clients and to provide mentors and seminars. Also the Ewing Marion Kauffman Foundation and the Regnier Institute for Entrepreneurship and Innovation have joined to provide mentoring, training, educational resources and other services.

The first floor of the building will house the EntreLab, a new initiative funded by a grant from the Kauffman Foundation that provides mentoring, advice and access to resources for entrepreneurs in the initial idea phase. The second floor is a startup incubator that can serve as the first home for a new launch-stage venture. The third floor will house a scale-up incubator for

ventures that are gaining traction and need more space to grow. With this use the building will be filled completely.

The incubator will charge a very basic, nominal fee to cover incidentals that may be needed. Mentoring and all other services will be provided by the Venture Hub partners without asking for an equity position in the client ventures.



The Venture Hub has maximum capacity for about 10 entrepreneurs prenuers a floor but most likely will house five or six a floor. It also provides conference rooms, a resource center, a design center, a training and seminar facility, mentor offices, and access to the law clinic, KCSOURCELINK, the innovation center, and other resources

**Contact:** Bloch Venture Hub Team [email](#)  
**SDO Profile:** [Bloch Venture Hub](#)

## Plastic Waste to Pavement

### Entrepreneurship to contribute to re-establishing Stability

The Incubator Center of Small and Medium Enterprises of Niger (CIPMEN) was assigned to execute a training program which aims to create permanent employment and environment protection in the Diffa region.

The urban commune of Mainé Soroa today faces a major problem, sanitation. To contribute to solving this problem, a project to

population is destabilized by the ravages of this war.

The Diffa 18 project, part of the Community Cohesion Program in Niger PCCN, aims at restoring sustainable activities for the youth of the urban commune of Mainé Soroa with the concrete task turn plastic waste to pavement.

For ten days in October 2016, five young people from Diffa were trained. Topics included sales techniques and commercial negotiations; targeted marketing; personnel, production, productivity and treasury management. At the end of the courses, a field visit was organized in a paving company for getting some practical work experience. The last day of the training was the official ceremony of delivering training certificates to the 5 young people of the region of Diffa. **Contact:** Almoktar Alahoury, [email](#) **SDO Profile:** [CIPMEN](#)



turn plastic waste into pavement was envisaged.

The region of Diffa, already is affected by a convergence of almost simultaneous crises (floods, drought, food and pastoral crises), is facing the arrival of the Islamic insurgents of the Boko Haram sect. The

## 31<sup>st</sup> InBIA International Conference

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the terms *innovation ecosystems* and *entrepreneurial ecosystems* are being



used almost interchangeably. Perhaps there are no fundamental differences, but a discussion of the definitions might be useful. There seems not to be any specific level of complexity of programs and areas being labeled an ecosystem. Some that are described at the conference are relatively simple but seem to provide at least one or two examples of what startups. Others contain an almost overwhelming numbers of sophisticated components with proven records of growing and funding successful technology companies.

The next InBIA International Conference will be held in Dallas, TX 22-25 Apr 2018

**Author Contact:** Barbara Harley, [email](#)  
**SDO Profile:** [InBIA](#)

## Top 100 Startups will pitch in San Francisco

The Tech.Co "Startup of the Year" competition seeks diverse startups from all are over the world, especially from areas that are newly emerging in the tech scene. Since 2006 Tech.Co has been showcasing early stage



startups and brought them together with mentors and investors this way helping to amplify the stories of companies like GrubHub, Groupon, LivingSocial, Add-This, Desk, and Uber.

The 2017 edition of Tech.Co's "Startup of the Year" again will help founders gain access to top tech investors, mentors, influencers as well as media exposure and attract some of the top emerging startups from around the world. TechCo Ventures actively invests in startups who participate in the Startup of the Year competition at the annual event "Innovate! Celebrate" in San Francisco to be held Oct 9 – 11, 2017. At this event the Top 100 Startups of this competition will pitch their companies in front of esteemed judges, who help select semifinalists to the Top 5 Startup Finale. The Top 5 participate in one final pitch to top investors for the title of Tech.Co's Startup of the Year.

More information see Tech.Co [website](#)  
**Application** open until **May 31, 2017**  
**SDO Profile** [Tech.Co](#)

## Enterprise Hub ‘The Mill’ in Drogheda opens Extension

Drogheda, located 50 km north of Dublin, is a place with history, for example, known from a historical massacre of Cromwell’s troops in 1639 and, a bit newer, the Boyne Viaduct build in 1855 and part of the train connection between Dublin and Belfast.

Today Drogheda is home of just over 30,000 inhabitants and a lively entrepreneurship and innovation support activity



with regional impact: The Mill.

The Enterprise Hub was named ‘The Mill’ in recognition of Drogheda’s proud commercial and industrial heritage dating back to the early 1800s. In February 2017 the

extension of ‘The Mill’ was officially opened by the Irish Minister for Small Business. The Mill now has the size for

being one of the leading innovation and technology, centers in Ireland. For the technological needs of companies SI-RO, a joint venture between the Irish Electricity Supply Board (ESB) and Vodafone, will provide 1 Gigabit connectivity.

The twin-level Enterprise Centre offers 1,500 sqm of dedicated offices and workspaces in a hot-

desking/ open-plan office area. Additionally, The Mill offers a reception and office facilities, meeting/training rooms, and outdoor space, the “Green Room”.

The Mill has a full-time experienced Busi-

ness Development Manager on site and a mentor panel made up of people experienced in different sectors & aspects of business are available to assist resident companies. The Mill also offers events for startups in the region, for example, the

**Louth LEO Enterprise Week** launched beginning of March with free events, including an **Ideas Development Enterprise Week** launched beginning of March with free events, including an **Ideas Development workshop** and an **e-Payments seminar** at PayPal in partnership with The Mill / M1 Payments Corridor. Also in March, more than 70 students from Drogheda, Dunleer and Laytown, attended an **Innovation Workshop**, part of the Drogheda Young Innovators (DYI) Competition, managed by The Mill Enterprise Hub. An aim of this event was to open students’ eyes and minds to new ways of thinking and considering entrepreneurship as an option

.For more information about the Hub and its “millers”, see the regular [newsletter](#)

**Contact:** Breannán Casey, [email](#) and Anna Kurtisa, [email](#) /

**SDO Profile:** [The Mill](#)

## 2017 Challenge Cup now open for Applications



1776, technology business incubation hub in New York, Crystal City,

San Francisco, Washington and Dubai, is partnering with the investment firm Revolution to find the most innovative startups solving complex challenges. The aim is to identify candidates from 75 ecosystems around the globe. More than 30 ecosystems already are on board – there is room for more. Startups now can apply for the **Challenge Cup 2017**, held annually since 2013, to get an opportunity for presenting their vision to a global audience, connect with public and private sector leaders, and compete for prizes.

The Challenge Cup will be held in 75 cities. One winner from each local competition will advance to the closing even. The Global Finals at the **Challenge Festival 2017**, a multi-day event to be held November 13-17, 2017 in New York City at 1776’s newest campus located in the Brooklyn Navy Yard.

Information and application for startups see [1776 website](#)

**Contact:** Challenge Cup Team [email](#)

## Zero to 100+ in just a few Months

CIC started activities in the Cambridge, MA in 1999 and extended its reach in the US to Boston, St. Louis, and Miami.



Since September 2016 CIC also is present in the Netherlands, in the central district

Meanwhile CIC Rotterdam, has grown to more than 100 client companies, most of them are startups. Energy, sustainability and health as well as life sciences are the focus of activities of these firms.

While CIC provides the facilities and [Venture Café](#), a non-profit sister company is taking care about building the community and providing advisory services

**Contact:** Melissa Ablett, [email](#) **SDO Profiles** [CIC Rotterdam](#), [Venture Café](#)

## High-Tech Venture Days 2017 in Dresden Open for Startups from all Europe

The High-Tech Venture Days 2017, a matching program for high-tech startups and international investors is organized by the business incubation program

High-Tech Startbahn

HTVD will be held in Dresden, **Oct 18-19, 2017**. With the exception of e-commerce all European tech-based startups are welcome to apply, for example, environment & energy, ICT, micro & nanotech, life sciences, material, machinery & plant engineering, transport



40 best applications will be finished. Applicants receive feedback and in September individual coaching will prepare the selected startups for the pitching day.

**Applications** for startups

from all Europe now are possible until **May 31, 2017** at [website](#). **Contact:** [email](#)

## CTIC Dakar presents the Fifth Cohort of Buntuteki Startups at Connectic Demo Day



The best entrepreneurs of the fifth cohort of the CTIC Buntuteki acceleration program presented at an event on March 31, 2017 in Dakar. These entrepreneurs were joined by the most talented developers of the second edition of the CTIC Coding Days.

Connectic Demo Day has become an institutional event of CTIC Dakar, the first incubator in West Africa, dedicated to the development of Digital Technological startups. The teams accompanied in the framework of the acceleration program Buntuteki to present their products and services to an audience that brings together



galese innovation ecosystem (entrepreneurs, institutional investors, Corporates, etc.). The entrepreneurs pitched their concepts to attract new partners and customers to continue growing their business. Also end of March the teams and projects of the second CTIC Coding Days presented (see article below).

This time Greentech was the theme of the three-day developer bootcamp held on the famous island of Gorée with the aim to

design finalized and marketable ICT solutions with impact.

Since 2012, the CTIC Dakar Connectic events have become important events in the Senegalese ICT scene and each time mobilize more than hundred attendees. Open to all, community members and newcomers meet in a professional and friendly setting to discuss a topic.

**Contact:** Eva Sow Ebion, [email](#), Morgane Ajzenberg [email](#) **SDO Profile:** [CTIC](#)

### CTIC Greentech Coding Days on the Island of Gorée

End of March 2017, CTIC Dakar, with support from the Senegalese telecom SONATEL and the German development aid organization GIZ organized Coding Days, this time with focus on Greentech.

More specific topics from the energy and environment sector of Senegal were de-



finied by experts in response to the needs and challenges identified.

Backed by mentors, the participating developers teamed up to develop solutions for one of the defined topics resulting in following three projects

**Eco Ordi:** Every year, tons of electronic waste is left on the roadside. Eco Ordi's mission is to collect these components

directly from private individuals, to provide compensation, and to use them to produce low-cost solar energy.

**Green Taka:** is a mobile app that geolocates collection points. Individuals are encouraged to bring their waste through a system of gamification and rewards. The objective is to avoid accumulation

of unsorted, polluting waste.

**Sea Care:** is an application and a web dashboard for the Fisheries Ministry of Senegal. A system of on-the-spot and visual alerts allows identification of prohibited fishing areas for the preservation of marine biodiversity

**Contact:** Eva Sow Ebion, [email](#), Morgane Ajzenberg [email](#) **SDO Profile:** [CTIC](#)

## The Startups and Projects at Connectic DD

### From Buntuteki Fifth Cohort

**CartaLink** offers high value digital services such as the digital ticketing for example, for buses or shows including eolocation and customer loyalty features. The company also offers development as well as complex and multiplatform software and mobile applications (IOS, Android, Windows).

**JENMEDIA** is a global communication agency offering a range of services. In addition to designing websites, web and mobile applications, hosting and community management, the company also offers communication with end-to-end service, it intervenes from graphic design to website development and social media via printing of marketing materials to customized applications.

**Taralgan** is a solidarity travel agency that organizes stays in Senegal. Travelers are accommodated in a homestay. A percentage of the travel expenses is dedicated to local development projects in the fields of education, health, environment, micro-finance, etc.

**Diasporik** is a participatory investment platform, specialized in agricultural projects, dedicated to Senegalese and outside business angels. We connect local entrepreneurs, the Senegalese diaspora and /or investors. Through the platform, startups can initiate a fundraising campaign. Beyond financing, DIASPORIK supports startups with systematization and monitoring..

**Pop'Up** is a platform for those who produce audio or video content on the Internet. The platform tackles the challenges artists face: Lack of income: CDs are obsolete. Pirates 2.0: The web offers music for free. Artists sell only to the local market, but need to think globally. With the new system artists can reach international markets and save resources.

Contact Mouhamed Edouard Mar, [email](#) [mouhamededji@gmail.com](mailto:mouhamededji@gmail.com)



## France invites for a Global Startup Competition

**Hello Tomorrow** is a global non-profit organization headquartered in Paris. It has been initiated to highlight, empower and connect the most promising deep-tech entrepreneurs across the globe

Another aim is to accelerate the transfer of for tomorrow.

advanced technologies into real world The **Challenge** is a global competition for solutions. Founded in 2011, Hello Tomorrow is supported by the French public and private sectors, but remains an independent organization governed by entrepreneurs. It gathers a community of the world's brightest talents to propel collaborations between promising disruptive projects and leading entrepreneurs, executives and investors, helping to bring the startups to market. Hello Tomorrow consists of

The **Global Summit** to be held October 26-27, 2017 in Paris will be attended by more than 3,000 science influencers and international leaders to build a better world



startups and projects solving real world

problems with deep technological innovation.

**Applications** for the 4<sup>th</sup> edition were launched on April 10, 2017. To request an invitation visit [website](#)

**Local Hubs** around the world provide a tailored approach to helping on the ground deep-tech startups, developing ecosystems, and

building a worldwide actionable network.

**Analysis** of trends and collaborations help VCs and corporates trying to understand the in-depth stakes of the changes

**Contact:** Hello Tomorrow [email](#) More information on Hello Tomorrow [website](#)

## Incubator of the Year 2017 Award won by Sid Martin Biotechnology Incubator

The Sid Martin Biotechnology Incubator (SMBI), the leading biotechnology incubator at the University of Florida, was named Incubator of the Year 2017.

This is the highest Award of InBIA, the International Business Innovation Association. It is sponsored by the Friends of the University Science Center in Philadelphia



and awarded annually at the International InBIA conference; this time held in Seattle, WA in March. Mark S. Long, Director, and Merrie Shaw, Assistant Director were accepting the award for SMBI at the InBIA award ceremony.

SMBI over the past 21 years has served more than 100 startups in biotechnology, biomedicine and bioagriculture. Since inception of SMBI client firms have created

more than 2,200 high-tech jobs and SMBI resident companies have accumulated over \$1.62B in capital and M & A activity. There is a 93% survival rate for companies that entered the SMBI program since March of 2003, and an overall 78% survival rate for all companies served over the past 21 years.

**Contact:** Mark Long, [email](#) and Merrie Shaw [email](#)

**SDO Profile** [Sid Martin Biotechnology](#)

## Science Parks – Global Experiences and Impact of Brexit

UKSPA, the UK Science Park Association, will hold the conference "Science, Innovation and Translation, The Design and Operation of Research laboratories, Incubators and Science Park Facilities" in York, United Kingdom on **May 9+10, 2017**

Hosted by [York Science Park](#), the event will offer 60+ sessions on a wide variety of topics, an exhibition and a gala dinner. Conference topics will include, Design of new and refurbished facilities; Specialization; Innovation and research needs; Research futures – Brexit impact and UK/EU policies, Good practice in setting

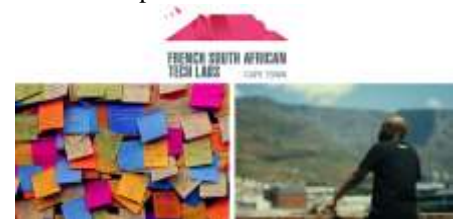
up and manage incubator and science park; University / science park ecosystems and a variety of case studies from different organization types from around the world.

**Contact:** UKSPA Conference, [email](#) More information on UKSPA [website](#)



## FSAT Labs opened for First Cohort

The French South African Tech Labs (FSAT Labs) launched 2016 in Cape Town, South Africa with an investment of €700,000 (R10m), partly from the French private company Methys. Branding itself as an incubator – accelerator, FSAT Labs started in April 2017 to look for a first co-



hort of digital entrepreneurs from South Africa and France.

South Africa's Small Enterprise Development Agency (SEDA) provided half of the investment allowing to offer services free of charge for the 6-months incubation, including coaching, mentoring, access to experts, digital services and free co-working space in Century City. The 24-month acceleration phase follows helping the startups mature. The services provided during this phase will be chargeable; FSAT Labs will take a percentage of the transaction value. Startups interested should be active in smart city, mobility, clean tech, mobile commerce, fintech, smart media, video gaming, media, 3D animation & printers or connected objects.

**Contact:** Alexia Vettier [email](#) **SDO Profile** [FSAT Labs](#)

## Digital Leaders in Madrid

**Digital Enterprise Show** for the second time will be held in Madrid, May 23-25, 2017. In 2016 18,000 visitors and 470 speakers from 50 countries



attended, representing 4,500 companies. This event is for business leaders ready to act to meet the challenge of digital transformation. Innovative cutting-edge technology companies will showcase their best solutions and knowledge. The main goal of DES is to offer solutions for different business areas to help improve the competitiveness of companies. Participants will leverage from the skill transition and find a technology partner, with who will guide the business transformation.

More information on DES [website](#) **Contact:** DES Team [email](#)

# Baltic States



## Creative Business Cup Lithuania

The Creative Business Cup competition focuses on entrepreneurs and start-ups, but is open to any creative industry representative with brilliant business idea.

There are no specific limitations with regard to age, turnover or number of employees or participating companies and there is a wide range of sectors that may apply: Advertising, Crafts, Architecture, Design, Fashion, Cinema, Entertainment, Photography and Video Publishing, Radio & Television, Music, Software, Video Games, Toys & Games as well as Visual and Performing Arts.

Participating proposals must present a commercial business concept with market potential and participants must own the rights to the idea.

**Applications** through YouNoodle are possible April 24 to **May 7, 2017**.

The national finalists participate in the Preparation Camp May 26-27, that ends with selecting the national Winner who will compete at the **International Finale** November 2017. scheduled to be held in Copenhagen in November 2017



**Creative Business Cup** is a global year-round initiative that empowers entrepreneurs in the creative industries by helping them grow their business ideas, connecting them to investors and the global markets.

More information: [website](#) or [Facebook](#)  
**Contact:** [National Creative and Cultural Industries Association](#)

## Latvian Universities engaged with Entrepreneurship Support

Higher education institutions play an important role in entrepreneurship ecosystem - through education and as source for new business ideas and startup entrepreneurs.

Labs of Latvia, the online media reporting about innovation and startups, started a new series of [report](#) "Inside Latvia's Startup Ecosystem" that "will cover the different role in supporting innovation and entrepreneurship. Here some information from this report:

Latvia has **29 universities** – 17 of them with state finance. 6 of these universities operate business incubation activities:



**University of Latvia** is Latvia's largest university and operates a **Student Business Incubator** that regularly reports on the university's website about projects and results. The 12-month program includes three months for idea validation and 9 months for incubation. Successful projects at the end receive a grant of 10 k€ for further developing the **RTU Design Factory**.

Here students and scientists can "simply do". The incubator provides **tools** (like 3D printing or laser cutting), **engineering** (mechanical, robotics), **space**(3D laboratory, dirty prototyping, meeting room, hot desk) and **activities** (summer school, study course, workshops, events).



**Riga Technical University** focuses its entrepreneurship support in **RTU Design Factory**. **ISMA, University of Information Systems Management** with its ISMA Business Incubator offers participants training events: conferences, seminars, practical workshops, receive advice for starting a business, financial planning, accounting, marketing, legal, clerical, etc. The incubator also helps with business planning, establishing a company and start a business



Arts and Technology has the **Creative Business Incubator** to inspire, educate and help RISEBA students and graduates speed up the growth and success of their business ideas, start-up and early stage companies. The mission is to support RISEBA students' business idea and project development and the acceleration process of the new start-ups.

**University College of Economics and Culture** with its **EKA Business Incubator** supports entrepreneurial students with lectures and creative workshops. Teams develop their ideas by

working on business models and plans, creating prototypes, learning selling and thus reaching realistic possibility to earn with their ideas. EKA Business Incubator helps to make first steps in business by additionally providing mentors' advice stories; useful contacts for business development; premises to work, have meetings with potential partners and clients; possibility to present concepts to competent representatives from business and finance.

**Other higher education institutions** do not offer full business incubation or acceleration programs, but support entrepreneurship by special activities:



**Riga Business School** has initiated **StartUp Lab** for developing job opportunities and educating entrepreneurial students that come to RBS with ideas for businesses and passion to start their own ventures. Startup Lab is a course to further motivate students to develop new businesses and job opportunities



**ISMA, University of Information Systems Management** with its ISMA Business Incubator offers participants training events: conferences, seminars, practical workshops, receive advice for starting a business, financial planning, accounting, marketing, legal, clerical, etc. The incubator also helps with business planning, establishing a company and start a business

**Latvia University of Agriculture** does not offer full business incubation services, but on the university's fields in Vecauce students are welcome to take part in farming, do their study research and participate problem solving activities. These activities already have resulted in spin-off startups in the food sector, like cereals, new ingredients for muesli and organic baby food.

**SDO Profiles** [UL Business Incubator](#), [RTU Design Factory](#), [RISEBA](#), [EKA Business Incubator](#), [RBS StartUp Lab](#), [ISMA Business Incubator](#)

# Tallinn

SPICA Directory lists **17** profiles

## Telliskivi Creative City in Tallinn got a Lift

After privatization of the site of the former Baltic Railway factories (founded in 1869) / Tallinn Electrical Engineering Factory get a face-lift for new purposes.

The ten ex-factory buildings on the plot offer 25,000 m<sup>2</sup>. Here **Telliskivi Creative City was established in 2009** to existing architecture new and alternative purposes. Meanwhile TCC has developed to be the largest hub for the creative economy in Estonia – a work and leisure environment growing, progressing and developing every day. New thoughts are planted that soon become the culture of tomorrow. **Creative City** is a friendly and supportive environment for ideas to emerge and grow. Telliskivi Creative City is working as an independent business hub, completely based on private ownership. The tenants are fully responsible for the design of their spaces. Such co-creation practice shapes the territory into a diverse and original community. Currently there are **over 200 businesses** bringing also life to the neighboring Old Town. Besides offices, ateliers, studios, workshops rehearsal spaces, shops and clubs, companies and NGOs are operating in Telliskivi Creative City that extends the



downtown of Tallinn across the railway tracks, offering an artistic alternative to the sights and night-shops. The territory contains a bike shop, bread factory, print shop, concert hall, theatre stage, several cafes, galleries, bars and restaurants as well as a nursery, massage salon and a yoga studio.

Short-term contracts are available for

meeting rooms, conference halls and events, training rooms and event space for large events like the Tallinn Street Food Festival in 2016 with 18 000 visitors.

End of 2016 the Creative City got a co-working space. **LIFT99** is now is working in Telliskivi Creative City. What was known as “Garage48 HUB” with the move changed its name to reflect the mission “to **lift 99 rockstars off the ground** by providing them great space with exciting events and an inspirational environment.” The Grand Opening on December 7, 2016 was not the only event attracting huge numbers of attendees. For example, the first **FuckUp Night Tallinn** drew 400 participants to the place. Opening the renewed **#EstonianMafia Wall of Fame** that presents the most

successful Estonian startups is in the pipeline. A Techstars Meetup, a Product and Design Meetup and a Startup Sauna were held in February. And there is more coming up, for example the **Founders Factory** on March 22, 2017. **For more information contact** LIFT99 managers **Susanne** [email](#)) and **Karina** [email](#) / SDO Profile [Lift99](#)

## Cleantech Startups in Estonia get more Support

Estonia is known for its startup ecosystem that already resulted in internationally successful startups and continuously develops this environment. [Startup Estonia](#)



is a central player in this field. In October 2014

Startup Estonia has started a project to give impulses to Cleantech for the country. Now, this project is maturing to become a “spin-off”: **Cleantech ForEst**. This non-profit organization aims to create awareness and promotes Cleantech in ideas and startups via ClimateLaunchpad Estonia; supports Cleantech business and the Climate-KIC Accelerator, and provides information about Cleantech educational events in Estonia and Europe.

**Contact:** ErkiAni [email](#);  
**SDO Profile** [Cleantech ForEst](#)

## Estonian Startups show dynamic Development

90% of the startups in Estonia are in the very early or early stages of development and most of them are active in the three sectors hardware, developer tools, collaboration & productivity and fintech.

Startup Estonia states: “Estonian startups are a heterogeneous bunch and cannot be defined by a ruling industry” and continues that for many of them it might still too early to consider them a company (“2 guys and a dog in a garage”). However, statistics show that they are increasingly contributing to the economy. The number of people employed in Estonian startups has grown by 1,000 to a total of 3,500 as of the end of 2016. The startups' tax contribution in employment taxes grew from €21M in 2015 to €28M in 2016. Estonian startups have attracted €370M investments during the last 10 years with more than 80% of it from foreign investors. 2016 was a record year with €102 m being attracted by the Estonian startups. With this development Estonian startups

facing a problem already other entrepreneurship hotspots are experiencing – the



limited availability of talent is becoming a problem. In January 2017 Estonia launched the Startup Visa program to attract skilled people from

other countries. 40 applications so far (9 of them approved) indicate interest, but more time will be needed to see impact. So far most interest comes from Ukraine, followed by Russia, Belarus, US, and UK.

More details in Startup Estonia [blog](#)  
**Contact:** Startup Estonia Team [email](#)

**SDO Profile:** [Startup Estonia](#)

*Illustration: Startup Estonia*



## Strengthening the Entrepreneurship Ecosystem of Poznan

Poznan Science and Technology Park invited the business and political community of the region Wielkopolska to learn about good business incubation practices from the US and the EU.

The one-day event, held on April 20, 2017 also was discussing matters related with maintaining and strengthening an ecosystem supportive for entrepreneurship and the development of startups.



The international guests were Kirstie Chadwick, President/CEO of InBIA, the International Business Innovation Association and Giordano Dichter, head of EU-BIC services, representing the EBN Innovation Network.

Kirstie Chadwick stated that comparing with Silicon Valley or Boston should be replaced by identifying an ecosystem as benchmark that is based on similar potential. And she explained how to identify the strengths of an innovation ecosystem, how

to measure its effectiveness and impact on the economy of the region, and how to identify entrepreneurial trends in a given area.

Giordano Dichter, talked about service delivery standards by business environment institutions and their professional design in the context of market needs. Quality standards, for example those developed within the EBN and used by the EU Commission as tool to certify innovation centers should be emphasized.

The event took place within the framework of the ESSPO Interreg Europe project on support instruments for entrepreneurs. The specific goal of the project is to develop a proposal for an incubation program for startup entrepreneurs in the Wielkopolska Regional Operational Program, which will be forwarded to the Marshal Office of the Wielkopolska Region.

## Inkowator – bringing Research Results into the Market

The Project “Inkowator Innowacyjnosi+” (Innovation Incubator) of the Ministry of Science and Higher Education of Poland was announced in August 2016 by a competition for projects to finance means of commercialization of research results and development works

The project aims contributing to the promotion of scientific achievements, increase their impact on the development of innovation and strengthen the cooperation between the scientific community and the economic environment.

With the main purpose to help researchers in commercializing research and development results, Poznan Science and Technology Park became a partner of a Inkowator Innowacyjnosi+ project, led by the University of Life Sciences. The third consortium member is Plantinova, Institute of Natural Fibers and Plant. As a result, 6 projects will be supported to develop a prototype and 4 pro-



jects for implementation.

The Innovation Incubator + offers support research results to business. The project to academics interested in turning their research results to business. The project contributes financial resources, for example, for market analysis, patent applications or technology valuation as well as international trade fairs participation. After completing the prototype, participants will find support in turning the product into a business. Inkowator Innowacyjnosi+ will run until end of January 2019.

**Contact:** Agata Wylegała [email](#), Justyna Cięgotura, [email](#), **SDO Profile:** [PSTP](#)



Poznan Science and Technology Park was the first initiative of its kind in Poland and since its foundation in 1995 has well developed giving impulses also to the entrepreneurship ecosystem of the region. Besides the technopark’s own price winning InQbator, today a Poznan has a network of institutions in incubators, co-working, acceleration, advisory, and finance supporting entrepreneurship – 29 of them listed in [SPICA Directory](#).

**Contact:** Jacek Gulinski, [email](#), Giordano Dichter, [email](#) Kirstie Chatwick **SDO Profiles:** [Poznan STP](#), [InQbator](#), [InBIA](#), [EBN](#) / *Photos: Poznan STP*

## Co-working Spaces in Poznan

Here we provide a few spotlights on a few co-working spaces in Poznan that have been opened not too long ago

### Grobla 7

The co-working space Grobla 7 provides the commonly known services and prides itself for its stylish design by Italian and Polish design companies.

More in SDO Profile [grobla 7](#)



### five-biuro

Five-biuro at two locations offers the technical facilities for Working in an individual office or in a shared workspace.

More in SDO Profile [five-biuro](#)



### ClockWork

ClockWork offers facilities to Work not only in a cozy villa with garden in the center of Poznan, but also at three locations in Warsaw

More in SDO Profile [ClockWork](#)



## Improving Entrepreneurship in North Lebanon

by Hani Malawi

More than 250 people attended the “First Entrepreneurship Symposium Promoting Entrepreneurship for Economic Development in North Lebanon” held at Azm University in Tripoli, Lebanon on April 4, 2017

Mr. Hani Mawlawi, director of LSTP, welcomed the audience and introduced to the symposium objectives, namely encouraging entrepreneurship to address the problem of unemployment in Lebanon, and the brain drain with negative impact on both the economic and social levels. He pointed out that the symposium organizers wanted to start with the “first step of thousand miles”, by spreading and encouraging the culture of entrepreneurship in our universities and the society in general.

Prof. Farid Chaaban in his welcome address said that Azm University is adopting a modern method to put its students on the road to success, and advised the students not to waste precious time, while stressing that perseverance in whatever you do is the road to success.

In the first session "Promoting and Supporting Entrepreneurship in our Universities and Society", Dr. Fouad Al-Choueifaty from Azm University focused on the role of academic education in developing the students' sense of leadership and entrepreneurship and the need that universities integrate the topic into their education. Mr. Elie Al-Akhras from UK Lebanon Tech Hub (UKLTH) described the role of UKLTH in creating job opportunities in Lebanon, especially in the Northern parts of the country and Mr. Karim Al-Soueissi, Fund Manager of Theemar Trablous, discussed the role of the fund in the economic development of Tripoli. He also shared information about the latest Theemar Business Idea Competition for universities in North Lebanon.



How entrepreneurs can help new entrepreneurs to start their new ventures was covered by Ms Najwa Suhmrani, co-founder vice-president of Tripoli Entrepreneurs Club (TEC).

The second session "Challenges faced and Lessons Learned by Entrepreneurs in North Lebanon" included an exciting and inspiring panel discussion with Ziad Sankari (founder of CardioDiagnostics), Wael Zemrli (founder and CEO of Zmerly &CO), Soumayya Merhi (founder of TaqaBar), Jimmy Joumaa (co-founder of Tragging) and Hassan Tabal (co-founder of NavyBits). The panelists shared a series of practical insights, experiences, challenges and obstacles they faced during their unique startup

journeys. On this basis they gave some advices to university students regarding employment after graduation and the option to start a business as alternative to consider.

With the aims to support digital innovation and entrepreneurship in the universities of North Lebanon through several joint projects and activities, during the symposium, a **cooperation agreement** (memorandum of understanding) was signed between Lebanon Science and Technology Park (LSTP) and Agence Universitaire de la Francophonie (AUF) in the Middle East.

This “First Symposium” clearly was an important step on the way to increase startup activities in the region. Especially raising awareness for the potential of entrepreneurship support in a region that faces challenges.

**Contact:** Hani Malawi, [email](#)  
**SDO Profile:** [Lebanon Science and Technology Park](#) (LSTP)

## 500 Small Business Projects in Egypt

“Support for the private sector, and in particular to MSMEs, is one of the EU’s key priorities to promote economic development for inclusive growth and job creation in the Southern Neighbourhood South” stated Reinhold Brender, Chargé -



**EU NEIGHBOURS south**

d’Affaires a.i. of the EU Delegation to Egypt at an event in Cairo in early March. The event, attended by

many business representatives and international donors, celebrated the conclusion of the 500<sup>th</sup> advisory project for small businesses in Egypt under the EU-funded program [EBRD AdviceforSmallBusiness](#). This program is part of the wider Initiative of the EU for Financial Inclusion. The project offers diversified market experiences through working with local and international consultants who have expertise and knowledge in the field of innovation and attracting financing opportunities as well as high track records in turning the younger generations into business entrepreneurs. Advisory projects are evaluated to assess the impact.

The results are strong. 61% is the average increase in annual turnover advice has had.

In addition, more than 50 % of assisted enterprises have reported an increase in number of employees, thus creating more than 3,000 new jobs since 2012.

The EBRD has invested over EUR 2.3 billion in Egypt through 43 projects since the start of its activities in the country at the end of 2012.

The Bank’s areas of investment include a wide range of economic activities like the financial sector, agribusiness, manufacturing and services, as well as infrastructure projects such as power, municipal water and wastewater services and support to transport services.

For more details see [press release](#) and visit EBRD [website](#)

## Amsterdam – Doha Two Startup Ecosystems explore Potentials

Capturing global markets is a challenge for startups. The ecosystems they are working in can provide significant support. To explore potential for collaboration representatives of the Amsterdam and the Doha ecosystems met

QBIC welcomed an Amsterdam delegation led by Mrs Kajsa Ollongren, Deputy Mayor of Amsterdam accompanied by Startup Amsterdam represented by Mr.

Bas Beekman and Mr. Ruben Nieuwenhuis. The aim of the meeting that was hosted by Aysha Al Mudahka, CEO of QBIC was to exchange experiences and begin with

identifying potentials for collaboration. During the event QBIC introduced to the bus, a mobile workshop that aims to promote the concept of invention in society. 'Sanea Bus' received very positive feedback from the visiting group.



**Qatar Business Incubation Center**

QBIC is the largest mixed business incubator in the Middle East. QBIC was founded by two of Qatar's leading government institutions supporting local entrepreneurs: Qatar Development Bank (QDB) and the Social Development Center (SDC), member of Qatar Foundation.



QBIC' goal is to develop the next 100 Million QAR companies in Qatar. QBIC empowers entrepreneurs to start and grow companies by incubating, developing, connecting and investing.

LeanStartup, a ten-week entrepreneurial program that provides real world, hands-on learning experience on how to successfully start a company.

Amsterdam has an active startup ecosystem that is stimulated by a large number of players brought together by **StartupAmsterdam** that was founded in 2015 by serial entrepreneurs and government program is a public / private initiative; collaboration between sectors is vital for its success. Together with its partners, such as accelerators, academic institutions, investors, large companies and startup founders, StartupAmsterdam creates a visible and coherent startup ecosystem. It encourages international startups and tech talent to establish links with Amsterdam and help those already in the city to expand globally



StartupAmsterdam focuses on startups that utilize technology as a fundamental part of their products and have the ambition to achieve rapid international growth.

**Contact:** Aysha Al Mudahka, [email](#) and Bas Beekman, [email](#)

**SDO Profile** [Startup Amsterdam](#), [QBIC](#)

Photo: QBIC

## Dubai – Berlin Entrepreneurs' Meeting

In April this year a delegation of German entrepreneurs came to visit Dubai for meeting with young entrepreneurs from the UAE to explore new investment opportunities. With this meeting a series of similar activities has been started. Organized by Enpact and IntersValley, a new platform supporting emerging entrepreneurial projects with a focus on the Arab World.

[Enpact](#) is a German non-profit organization based in Berlin that provides mentorship, consultancy and other services to entrepreneurs, for example the [Startup Haus Tunis](#) that has been opened in March 2016 with financial support from the [Westerwelle Foundation](#) and recently was visited by the German Chancellor [Angela Merkel](#) to discuss with entrepreneurs for first-hand impressions of their business experiences in the North African country.

Enpact has announced its intention to launch a 'Mentorship Program' for entrepreneurs in MENA. With this program, co-financed by the German Federal Foreign Office, the entrepreneurship support is going to be strengthened by training entrepreneurs. Turning ideas into startups is one of the training topics. Bringing investment opportunities to the Arab region is another goal. This should be reached by periodic activities like the recent meeting.

IntersValley is currently collaborating with some of the leading universities in the UAE to provide job opportunities for students. This comes as part of its focus on supporting emerging businesses in the Gulf and MENA.

**Contact:** enpact Team [email](#)

**SDO Profile** [enpact](#), [Startup Haus Tunis](#)

## HUB AFRICA – the Fifth Time in Casablanca

The first edition of HUB AFRICA was held 2012 in Casablanca, Morocco with 4,500 participants. Since then this annual event has been developing and welcomed 11,200 visitors in 2016.

Now the event will be held for the fifth time on **May 4 and 5, 2017** at the Office des Changes in Casablanca.

Pre-arranged B2B meetings, exhibition, conference, and pitches will be part of the event. At the Pan-African **Hackaton Hub Africa** under the theme "Let's Create the Dream of Others" multidisciplinary teams will develop a computer project, software or application over a limited period of 24 hours working on rapid prototyping of project ideas and the search for an innovative strategic model. The best projects will benefit from access to the **Crowdfunding platform**. The **HUB AFRICA Awards** at a gala evening will honor entrepreneurship ecosystem actors (company, association,

support network public or private) in Africa with 8 different awards, including the South-South Cooperation Awards, the Entrepreneur of the Year Award, the Innovative Company, and the Young Entrepreneur Award.

**Application** for the award is possible until **April 30, 2017** at [website](#)

Honored countries of HUB AFRICA 2017 are Gabon and Cameroon

More details on HUB AFRICA [website](#)

**Contact** HUB Africa Awards: [email](#)

**SDO Profile:** [HUB AFRICA](#)



## From Rock ‘n Roll to high-tech Entrepreneurship

Memphis, Tennessee – the first thought could be “blues, soul, and Rock ‘n Roll” or possibly “Elvis”. But, this changes. The city with about 650,000 inhabitants living at the Mississippi river has changed much during recent decades. The cotton plantations, historically the most important economic factor were replaced by FedEx, being now the largest employer in the city. 90,000 people are working in the logistics sector (one third of them at FedEx). This is how Memphis airport became the second largest freight airport in the world. city also has other tech resources and initiatives to prepare the grounds for innovation based economic development.

The **Memphis Bioworks Foundation** has been set up for creating companies, jobs and investments in bioscience and sustainability to support innovation based economic development.

The foundation has a wide range of activities for fostering economic vitality by investing in entrepreneurs, building state-of-the-art labs and facilities, and training the next generation of workforce, including the UT Baptist Research Park, the Specialized TriMetis Laboratory, the Bioworks Business Incubator, several accelerator programs, and the EPI Center as well as workforce developing programs in health, information, clean and green technologies.

These initiatives are complemented by other organizations, business incubators and accelerators like following examples

**Start Co.** with a number of accelerators, partly initiated with other organizations operates a number of programs to support entrepreneurship and startups, like summer camps and accelerators:

**Seed Hatchery** is focused on software and hardware as a enterprise customers. It is the first accelerator in Memphis and since 2011 has launched 26 tech companies.



**Sky High**, an EdTech accelerator focused on curriculums development solving challenges of the education system. Participants have access to tools, mentors, schools and educational organizations.

**Upstart**, with an emphasis on women-led tech startups and offers a curriculum reflecting the way female founders work, learn, and lead.

Other entrepreneurship support activities are, for example **ImagineU** a collaboration of 7 Memphis universities and colleges with the aim of supporting students’ entrepreneurship. ImagineU is part educational fellowship and part business accelerator.

**AgLaunch**, a 15-weeks accelerator led by the Memphis Bioworks Foundation and the Tennessee Department of Agriculture.

**NAWBO Memphis Accelerator**, for women entrepreneurs operated by the local Chapter of the National Association of Women Business Owners

**EPIcenter Logistics Innovation Accelerator**. Sponsored by FedEx, this program focused on helping to bring logistics startups to market

**Propel**, a 12-week minority accelerator run in partnership between Start Co. and the city of Memphis, Office of Business Diversity and Compliance.

**ZeroTo510**: Founded and housed at the Memphis Bioworks Foundation, this accelerator focuses on promoting medical technology innovation

The 11 universities and colleges of Memphis provide well educated staff, research results and a pipeline of potential entrepreneurs. **LITE MEMPHIS** has developed a multi- year model for students (17 to 25) tackling the challenges to start a business: experience, networks, and fund-



ing LITE offers a 6-month program where students introduce business concepts for solving community challenges and get access to access mentors, coaches and seed funding. The program culminates with the LITE Pitch Night.



Since 2016 the **Memphis Entrepreneurs Club** is active as “Collaborative Networking Marketplace” to support new and existing businesses from entrepreneur to entrepreneur.

### Finance

New businesses need finance to start and grow. Memphis also locally is taken care for this matter, for example through following funds



**Innova**, investing in early-stage, high growth health and AgTech companies



**MB Venture Partners** is a venture capital firm that provides equity capital and strategic direction to life sciences companies.

Besides all this technology Memphis still is a **city of music**



**Start MMT** is a music industry-focused accelerator founded under the leadership the Hall of Fame songwriter David Porter.

Start MMT is the cornerstone of the effort to advance music industry, technology, creative talent, and music entrepreneurs



From a different perspective: The **Beale Street Music Fest** (May 5-7, 2017) features four stages of live music from more than 66 world-class acts.



## Boost Turku starts Accelerator Program 2017



Startup Journey is a ten-week program for “teams with kick-ass attitude” who want to make their idea a reality. The program is looking for teams with a potent business idea, skills to execute and willingness to commit to the program.

Game developers or teams are a special focus of this accelerator program. Already earlier issues of Startup Journey were very popular among gaming teams. Therefore a separate track was developed to help gaming teams with specialized expertise and knowledge. Collaboration with The HIVE - Turku Game Hub provides extraordinary opportunities for gaming teams to network with people from the game industry and get industry specific coaching and events

in addition to the regular program. Before Startup Journey gets started, candidates are prepared for the upcoming accelerator through the StartingUp: **Dropout Academy** workshop series and some additional workshops. This academy is followed by three **Boostcamps**, weekend-long workshops that are a “great getaway from conventional thinking and doing, and serve to inspire and bring us closer together.” **Keynotes and 1-on-1 meetings** allow participants to meet and work with experienced people.

The Grande Finale is the **Journey Demoday** with pitches by journey participants, joined by a live audience of investors and influencers, friends and everyone involved in making Startup Journey the greatest accelerator in Finland.

**Contact:** Juha-Matti Santala, [email](#)  
**SDO Profile** [Boost](#)

## Autonomous Ships by Rolls-Royce give Impulse to Turku Development

The new research and development center of Rolls-Royce focusing on remote-controlled and autonomous ships will be set up in Turku, Finland.

The research facility is planned to be opened during the year 2017.

Turku, with ca. 350,000 people living in the region has a long history in education. The first university of Finland was established here in 1640) and today the city has about 35,000 university students. The



sector of industry is well represented in the city. Turku Science Park since more than 25 years is promoting innovation and entrepreneurship with now 300 client companies and many programs for regional innovation development.

Qualified staff, industry experience available certainly, and a functioning innovation support system certainly are factors that contributed to Rolls-Royce’s decision to place the new research facility in Turku.


The Mayor of Turku, **Aleksi Randell**, is calling for “growth investments from the state” and a quick update of the “Finnish maritime industry cluster national strategy for competitiveness” to complement the initiative of Rolls-Royce and make the best possible use of the new investment.

**Contact:** City of Turku [email](#)  
**SDO Profile** [Turku Science Park](#)  
Source Turku City [website](#)


Photo Turku Science park [website](#)


## Turku Entrepreneurship Ecosystem

Here we provide a few spotlights on players in the entrepreneurship support ecosystem of Turku. More information can be found in [SPICA Directory](#).

The [Turku Science Park](#) is a central piece of the city’s system to support innovation and startups. TSP,  during its almost 30 years has collected much experience and diversified so that all need of entrepreneurs and growing startups can be met including two business incubators.

A technology business incubator that is not part of the science park is [The Hive - Turku Game Hub](#).

Located in the district of the city where the this digital companies are working incubator provides specialized services, tools, and facilities for teams working on developing a startup. 

An initiative bringing together important player is [SparkUp](#). It is mainly aimed at startups in initial and growth phases to be set up in ElectroCity. The underlying idea is the power of co-operation. The parties behind SparkUp are the City of Turku, Turku Science Park, Turku Technology Properties Group, Turku Region Development, Potkuri, Åbo Akademi University, Turku University of Applied Sciences, and the University of Turku. 

Aimed at the creative industry sector of the city and South-West Finland, the business incubator

[Creve](#) (Creative Ventures)  was initiated by the University of Applied Sciences HUMAK. Early-stage growth companies find here workrooms and services as well as events, meetings trainings, coaching and mentoring to help them becoming successful businesses. Creve offers the services not only at several locations in Turku, but also in Helsinki



# Switzerland

## New Spaces for Innovation

Switzerland Innovation”, the Foundation Swiss Innovation Park was founded in March 2015 (see News [article](#)) and operates on five sites.

Two locations are within the vicinity of the the two Federal Institutes of Technology in Lausanne and Zurich and the three network locations in Aargau, in north-western Switzerland and in Biel.

### Switzerland Innovation Park Zürich

will open in Summer 2017 at the airfield in Dübendorf to create a new platform for research, development and innovation.

The aim is to combine research findings with the practical experience and market expertise of leading big companies, SMEs and start-ups. The first projects to be located in the park come from the areas of robotics and mobility, SpaceTech, FinTech and blockchain technology. Physical prox-



imity of companies, open-plan offices, workshops, laboratories, shared testing facilities and information platforms will create ideal conditions to inspire companies to share ideas and expertise. The park will stimulate growth, create new jobs and improve Zurich’s already considerable appeal for its high quality of life. The first step of opening the new facility will be a pavilion to house an exhibition, a public café and the park management.

### Switzerland Innovation Park Aargau

is next in the line as it comes to new prem-

ises. The park aims to attract spin-offs,



startups, companies from abroad, as well as international joint ventures.

Park Aargau aims to create an innovation environment and to promote the exchange between the companies as well as with the Paul Scherrer Institute. 70% of the new areas already are reserved.

35,000 m<sup>2</sup> of office and laboratory space are being built; an investment of 165 million Swiss francs to promote exchange between companies as well as with the Paul Scherrer Institute. The first stage will be

ready in 2020. It will consist of four buildings with House A (5.300m<sup>2</sup>) being the first and House B, scheduled for completion in the first quarter of 2021. A total will be created in the first stage: 21,000 m<sup>2</sup> of which are rentable areas, of which around 7,000 m<sup>2</sup> are work workshops and laboratories, and 1,300 m<sup>2</sup> cleanrooms.

**Contact:** Sylvie Mauron, [email](#)

**SDO Profile:** [Swiss Innovation Park](#), [Park Innovaare](#), [Technology Park Aargau](#), [Technologiepark Zürich](#)

*Photo:* [Innovation Park Zürich](#), [Park INNOVAARE](#)

## F10: Eight of ten startups have graduated

The Fintech incubator F10 is active in Zurich since two years and now eight startups from the first P2 batch graduated

After eight of the ten startups in the first F10 batch of the P2 program (Prototype to Product) have graduated, F10 now opened A call for the next batch. F10 offers two more programs: P1 “Idea to Prototype” processes. and F3 “Product to Market” with separate application processes.

F10 specializes in FinTech, RegTech and InsurTech. The program offers startups an



intense a six-month program to help growing the participating firms rapidly through mentorship and guidance from industry experts as well as contacts and collaborations with banks and large organizations that support F10.

For applications: [website](#); **Contact:** Markus Graf [email](#), **SDO profile:** [F10](#)

## Innovation Center in Biel-Bienne is getting stronger

In a new initiative Creaholic and Swisscom are joining forces to build a leading partnership for creating disruptive innovations. About 25 Swisscom employees will move to Creaholic on May1.



Creaholic has thirty years of experience in the area of innovation development, has successfully founded several start-ups and has over 800 projects in its portfolio.

Swisscom has spent the past 14 years creating a culture of innovation, based on a human-centered approach. For the past two years Swisscom also has provided innovation related services to external companies.

With the new team of more than 50 people, Creaholic is well positioned to meet the challenges of digitalization. Marcel Aeschlimann, Managing Partner and new Chairman of the Board stated: “We are center and to offer our clients a wide range of services.”

**Contact:** Creaholic Team [email](#)

**SDO Profile:** [Creaholic](#)

## City of Lucerne promotes Creative Industry

The Agenda for Culture 2020 of Luzern, Switzerland does not only include a strategy for museums, exhibitions and other cultural activities, it also aims to promote creative industries in the city. The target

group includes companies with market-oriented products or projects with a creative, artistic background or context. With an annual budget of CHF 100,000 the city vibrant creative industry of Lucerne.

The fund now is open for applications until **May 18, 2017**.

More information on Lucerne [website](#); Creative Industry Tender [download](#).

**Contact:** Judith Christen, [email](#)

*Illustration:* City of Lucerne website



# Singapore

SPICA Directory lists **12** profiles



## 12 of 450 – Startupbootcamp Singapore 2017 Cohort ready to start

450 international startups applied for the 2017 cohort of Startupbootcamp Singapore – 12 of them were accepted. The global accelerator Startupbootcamp started 2010 in Europe and meanwhile, working at 17 locations, has expanded globally, including India, Mexico, and the United States. The Singapore accelerator focuses on FinTech. The 12 startups of the 2017 Singapore cohort cover the spectrum of the FinTech sector, including payments and investment management, and also InsurTech. The startups will benefit from mentorship provided by more than 400 entrepreneur-mentors, investors and corporate partners. Additionally, they will get access to masterclasses, and receive S\$25,000 (ca. US\$ 17,700) as well as six months of free office space at the co-working space Lattice80. Startups of this cohort have the chance to test-trial their solutions, get access industry data, and pilot customers. Additional capital can be provided through partnerships with financial corporations and government backed innovation programs. After three

months, the acceleration program will end with the Demo Day on July 5, 2017.

The cohort has three teams from **Taiwan**: [Fugle](#) (digital brokerage to help investors with financial information); [CherryPay](#) (cross-border p2p money transfer matching platform) and [Tixguru](#) (trading platform to

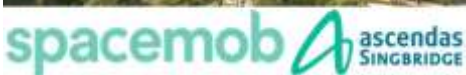
provide accurate market analysis, forecast and optimized portfolio management); two startups from **India**: [Jumper.ai](#) (unified AI interface to help merchants sell products and collect payments on social media platforms) and [Scalend](#) (analytics platform helping businesses gather customer insights, optimize user experience through predictive big data) and two teams from **South Korea**: [Small Ticket](#) (p2p platform distributing insurance products) and [AIM](#) (Automated Investment Service, a robo advisor that helps retail investors manage their portfolio). The other five startups are from **Cambodia**: [Morakot](#) (building bank-



ing systems for microfinance and banks), **Japan**: [SmartTrade](#) (quantitative trading platform which helps engineers develop, use and share trading algorithms), **Lithuania**: [Welltrado](#) (investment marketplace that leverages on p2p lending and crowdfunding), **Singapore**: [SmartFolios](#) (online advisory and investment platform helping investors reach their investment goals) and **United Kingdom**: [MostShorted](#) (platform helps investors gather accurate data on short positions in equity markets).

**Contact:** Startupbootcamp Team [email](#) [SDO Profiles](#) [Startupbootcamp Singapore](#) and [Lattice80](#)

## Spacemob - Co-working Space from Singapore plans to expand in Asia



... continued from page 1 ... development “Ascent” in the science park. Ascent is a 40,000 m<sup>2</sup> business park, located at the gateway of Singapore Science Park. The new Spacemob co-working space also will build on the close by higher education and research facilities and tech communities.

The spacemob Founder and CEO, Turochas “T” Fuad with the new partnership with Ascendas-Singbridge continues his strategy to form partnerships with property owners to generate new revenue streams

of our objectives as a company is to enable space as a service and maximize space usage for our property partners.” We look forward to growing across the region with similar partnerships and offerings.” And Ascendas-Singbridge Group CEO, Miguel Ko says; “We are delighted to partner with spacemob to provide co-working spaces to entrepreneurs and small-medium businesses in the Singapore Science Park.”

During 2017 spacemob plans to expand further to other Asian countries. A spacemob is Jakarta is planned to be opened soon - Thailand and Vietnam are on the list as well.

**Contact:** spacemob, Tanya Wilson, [email](#) Ascendas-Singbridge, Lena Han, [email](#) [SDO Profile](#) [Singapore Science Park](#) [SDO Profiles](#) Spacemob [Claymore](#) and [Ascent](#) Ascendas-Singbridge [website](#)

**Source:** Ascendas-Singbridge [press release](#)  
**Photo:** Ascendas-Singbridge [website](#)

## e27 - Give Startups a winning Chance



The name of this initiative is combined of the letter “e” for entrepreneurs, and “27” that

was the median age of entrepreneurs when e27 started in 2007. The founders of e27 intend to “give every startup a winning chance”. E27 started as a blog to keep track of the startups in Singapore and has evolved to provide relevant tools and resources to the tech ecosystem in Asia:

**News:** articles that cover news on funding, startup and entrepreneur profiles, product reviews, and resource articles

**Events:** around the region including the two-day ECHELON conferences, in 2017 in Singapore, Indonesia, Malaysia, Thailand, Philippines, and Vietnam.

**Database:** Startups and investors to discover each other.

**Jobs:** apply for a position in a company.

**Contact:** e27 Team [email](#) [contact@e27.co](#)

# Germany

## Experience from Practice: BVIZ Work Group Day held in Science Park Kassel

For the second time BVIZ, the German Associations of Technology, Innovation, and Startup Centers held its annual Work Group Day. This time the event was hosted



ed by the **Science Park Kassel (SPK)** in its new 10,000 m<sup>3</sup> building on the university campus. Here university based start-

ups can benefit from a wide range of services and facilities including co- working options, an idea lab, and, of course, office, lab and workshop space. Building this new

space became necessary because the successful first incubator in Kassel, the **FiDT Technology and Startup Center Kassel** could no longer meet the demand of numerous growing startups and new clients interested to join. Also university related entrepreneurs and startups called for a location closer to the campus to maintain links with research and education.

**Gerold Kreuter**, managing director of the science park can make with both incubators underlined the comprehensive offer

the institutions like, for example, the university tech transfer unit UNIKAT on site. Consequently the new space already is well filled and the need for further expansion comes in sight – possible on adjacent land.

The BVIZ event brought together practitioners from the regular Work Groups “Creative Industry”, “Center Management” and “International” to discuss experiences and learn from each other. The size of the discussion groups and the format focusing on discussion rather than presentation makes sure that direct and personal exchange is possible and the interests and needs of participants can be taken care of.

“Strengthening existing links, finding like-minded partners, and making new friends are important aims of the BVIZ Work Group Day”, as Bertram Dressel, president of BVIZ said introducing to the get-together dinner in the restaurant “Gutshof” the night before the event.

**Contact:** Gerold Kreuter, [email](#) and Andrea Glaser [email](#)

**SDO Profile** [BVIZ](#), [Science Park Kassel](#) and [FiDT Technology and Startup Center Kassel](#)

## 173 Years of Innovation

The German Mittelstand (medium sized enterprises), often called the backbone of Germany economy, is known for its orientation towards customer needs and international markets. “Incremental, continuous innovation” (rather than disruption) is another key success factor.

At the time when in the US the first telegraphic message using the Morse alphabet was sent from Washington to Baltimore, Leopold Bittmann got his startup going in Idar-Oberstein. 172 years later the company is named BITO Lagertechnik and has become one of the market leaders in the segment of storage technology. BITO develops, produces and markets racks, containers, picking and transport systems for all industries. As an internationally operating industrial company with more



than 70,000 customers and more than 950 employees BITO still produces close to where it has been founded at its headquarters in Meisenheim – and additionally since 2007 also in India.

Now, BITO has taken initiative for another innovative approach. The company is starting its own business incubator, **BITO CAMPUS**, with the official opening

scheduled for May 2017. Innovation, technology, logistics, exchange and cooperation are the key components the incubator combines to create a place perfect to become successful. The incubator addresses technology-oriented founders and graduates with a focus on logistics, intralogistics, robotics or new materials and is offering “the ideal environment and perfect conditions to realize your ideas successfully.”

The historic building of the former Volksschule in Meisenheim am Glan (community college), with large rooms and lots of light - amid an old-grown park – is the home of BITO CAMPUS that in addition to all known incubator facilities also offers a few apartments for founders coming from ...continued on next page...

## INNO AWARD 2017 open for Application

The 5<sup>th</sup> INNO AWARD is calling for applications. Invited are innovative ideas, concepts, products or processes that only very recently or not yet have been transformed into a business. The Award is open nation-wide in Germany for any sector. With prize money of in total EUR 18,000 INNO AWARD is sponsored by the technology centers in Mecklenburg-Vorpommern and business partners. Deadline for applications for the INNO AWARD 2017 is **May 2, 2017**; the award ceremony will be held on **June 29, 2017**.

Petra Ludwig, Managing Director of the Technology Center in Warnemünde, is expecting a high number of applications because of the attractive prize money, the reputation of the INNO AWARD, start-up assistance as well as network access.

Award sponsors are Ecovis Grieger Malison, Mittelständische Beteiligungsgesellschaft Schwerin, and the energy supplier E.DIS. Jörg Sinnig, founder of SIV AG in Roggentin, now has joined the VTMV and thereby will support the award financially and with advice.



Dr. Wolfgang Blank, Chairman of the “Verbund of Technology Centers in Mecklenburg-Vorpommern (VTMV)”, who founded the INNO AWARD five years ago, stated “We are delighted that companies support the award and startups are benefitting from it”. This can be illustrated by the winner of the INNO AWARD 2016 (see right column).

**Contact:** Simone Brehm, [email](#)

**Application** [website](#)  
**SDO profile** [VTMV](#)

## See what you cannot see

The company **Diaspective Vision** is located at the Baltic Sea at “Salz-Haff”, a place where other people travel for vacation and surfing. Since foundation in 2015 the company has been growing continuously to now 10 employees, responsible for the development, manufacture and distribution of the processes and products. “See what your eyes cannot see” - hyperspectral imaging technologies are at the center of the activities of Diaspective Vi-

Vision, producing cameras that can take pictures allowing conclusions to be drawn about the chemical nature of the imaged object. In medicine, for example, these cameras allow non-invasive measurement of the blood flow, the distribution of hemoglobin and the surface moisture of the tissue. Early detection of vascular diseases, in skin and organs transplants, or in wound treatment are typical examples for applications of the technology. Physicians and device surgeons, in addition to their personal experience now are able to use objective numerical values delivered by modern device medicine for their diagnosis.

Dr. Axel Kulcke, Managing Director of Diaspective Vision, describes the effect the Award winning:” This has given us a tremendous emotional boost because it shows that not only we alone believe in the value of the product.”

**Contact:** [Diaspective Vision](#),  
Axel Kulcke, [email](#)

## FinTech Acceleration Program in Frankfurt/Main



Frankfurt / Main certainly is a European financial industry hub. But, looking at the FinTech Startup sector, other cities in Germany and abroad already have a more advanced ecosystem. And these cities are working on building up their system for supporting FinTech startups.

Now Frankfurt has added a new initiative to support the development of new FinTech companies. **TechQuartier** is a co-working space and accelerator that recently started and already is well visited. Claiming to be the largest start-up center in Frankfurt (about 1,600 m<sup>2</sup> space) and a specialty: a bar not only serving the coffee coworkers get everywhere, but also the famous “Frankfurt national drink” “Äpplewoi”, a wine made from apples.

TechQuartier offers co-working services including events of actual topics and two programs to help startups to scale.

**HIPA – the Hessian-Israel Partnership Accelerator** is a 3 month business challenge for teams of Israeli and German entrepreneurs to solve challenges faced German companies in

the financial service industry. The program began with a bootcamp in Frankfurt in March that continues in May with a training in Israel, and concludes with a Demo Day in June 2017.

**TopStars accelerator** is being launched to support fintech growth in Frankfurt. In cooperation of TechQuartier and Boston Consulting Group (BCG), one top-star fintech will receive a BCG consulting project valued €100.000 Euro to scale their business. The accelerator does not take equity in return.

TechQuartier enjoys strong support from the political sector as well as from the banking and finance sector.

Applications for the actual program closed end of March

**Contact:** Sebastian Schaefer, [email](#)

**SDO Profile** [TechQuartier](#)

## BITO Campus

... continued from previous page... other cities who want to start their business and look for the right environment and support through exchange of experience, advice, mentoring, networking.

University graduates of the corresponding technical faculties, who need opportunities and mentors to successfully implement their dissertations in practice, are especially welcome.

For more information about BITO Lager-technik visit [website](#)

**Contact:** Richard Haxel [email](#)

**SDO Profile:** [BITO CAMPUS](#)



## Four Awards at the Leipzig Startup Night 2017 All applicants receive Feedback from the Jury

The **Startup Night Leipzig** this year will be held **September 14, 2017**. Outstanding startups, successful businesses, and innovative ideas will be awarded at this event at a festive ceremony that will take place



in Villa Ida on the Mediacampus. New at the Startup Night this year is the joint price of the Chamber of Industry and Commerce of Leipzig and the HWK Leipzig for the life work of an entrepreneur from the region. The Startup Night is sponsored by Sparkasse Leipzig (Savings Bank Leipzig). Since end of March applications are possible for the „Idea“ Award as well as for the other categories (Startup, Ten Years After, Life Achievement). The competition is open for all inhabitants of

the Free State of Saxony who have an innovative idea for a business. Registration or the Idea Award just needs a two-page idea sketch. A business plan or financial planning is not required. The submitted sketches will be judged by a jury. In any case, the applicant will receive feedback and, if desired, suggestions how the idea may lead to a new career prospect. The authors of the best sketches finally present their idea on June 9, 2017 to a wide audience. The guests of the event will choose the winner of the prize, which will be announced and awarded in the evening.

**Application** deadline for the Idea Award was April 25, for the other awards applications can be made until June 19 2017, through an online tool that will be made available on the SMILE [website](#)

**For more information visit the City of Leipzig [website](#)**

**Contact:** SMILE Team [email](#) [info@smile.uni-leipzig.de](mailto:info@smile.uni-leipzig.de)

## Entrepreneurial Students in Leipzig have Reason to SMILE

SMILE supports students, graduates and research assistants from any university working in any field who want to set themselves up in business. It offers a range of event formats, advice and individual coaching. SMILE is actively supported by the six institutions in Leipzig: Leipzig University Faculty for Economic Science, Faculty for Human Sciences and SIKT (Saxony Incubator for Clinical Translation, Leipzig Graduate School of Management, Helmholtz-Center for Environment Research, German Biomass Research center. Local and State Government as well as the Sparkasse Leipzig Leipzig (Savings Bank Leipzig) and the Chambers are supporting the activities of this student-driven network. SMILE offers instruments to support students' entrepreneurship:

**Workshops & Seminars** as opportunity

for supporting personal development in various event formats.

**Personal coaching:** to test ideas and develop them together an individual coach. The coaching reaches from the idea to



market entry; focus areas are leisure, health / life science, communication, art & culture, sustainability, and technology. Since 2016 SMILE has already supported about 400 startup projects. For easy access SMILE is present at six locations throughout the city of Leipzig

**Contact:** SMILE Team [email](#) [SDO profile](#) [SMILE](#)

## What is Co-working? Coworking Conference held in Leipzig

After Hamburg hosted the Coworking Conference 2016, this year Leipzig was the place to meet. End of March 2017 [Basislager Coworking](#) and [Social Impact Lab](#) co-organized the annual conference of the [German Coworking Federation](#). Coworkers, researchers and operators of co-working spaces joined for the three day event including a barcamp, keynotes as well as networking with the key players of the industry and informed that the next network meeting of the Federation will be



held in June in KrämerLoft, Erfurt. About the Leipzig event Nicole Sennewald, co-founder of the new KrämerLoft co-working in Erfurt, gives personal impressions on her [blog](#). She stressed the value of the barcamp and describes it as “a colorful hodge-podge around co-working” discussing questions like “How can you make your space even more attractive? How to improve the Equipment? How to earn money? How to build community? Practical Experiences.”

A topic of general discussion was what co-working really is / should be. The term was obviously "discovered" some time ago by real estate investors and operators for the marketing of furnished office spaces.

As Nicole writes, “It will continue to be a big task for "real" co-working space operators to explain to the people and especially the press what co-working is. It is not enough, to just place a few desks somewhere and provide WLAN access. Co-working, as the word says, means cooperation and exchange, it means community, openness, collaboration, sustainability and accessibility.” Possibly this reminds some experienced professionals on the discussion about the term “Business Incubator” and its use during the 1990ies?



For more information (in German) visit the [blog](#) and the profile of [KrämerLoft](#).

**Contact** Nicole Sennewald, [email](#)

The interview:

## Avoid Cargo-Cult

*Dr. Mildner, you are managing director of the “Technikzentrum Lübeck” (Lübeck Technology Center), since it started in 1998 as one of the first incubators in Germany. On the background of your many years of experience in entrepreneurship and startup promotion, what are the special advantages for founders to start and grow their businesses in the city of Lübeck - and what are the current challenges?*

The location of the Lübeck incubator is particularly attractive due to its short distances on the BioMedTec campus, in terms of space as well as in the cooperation between the scientific institutes and the start-ups and with innovative companies in our 10 multi-function centers. The other locations offer special advantages in the middle of Lübeck's inner city and in an industrial logistics location that is particularly suited for transport businesses. And, of course, all companies in the three centers are networked within the framework of our business model. We are running R&D + T (research, development and testing) technology transfer and business incubation as a holistic process under one roof in our UniTransferKlinik GmbH. The current challenges are the same as ever: To set systematic start-up impulses and support business development under the given technological trends, as currently all 4.0 domains



*Technikzentrum Lübeck - Seelandskasse*

*You are running the Technikzentrum Lübeck Lübeck (TZL, Lübeck Technology Center) since 1986. TZL was one of the first such centers in Germany. How do the decades of experience in this field benefit your customers, who now start a business?* Well, the TZL is at its best - deep and broad. It is well linked with regional science and business as well as the administration, has many reliable contacts in the nationwide technology promotion scene

and an excellent reputation as a company location. Already TZL itself, by its sheer size with 20 buildings and 50k sqm offers a high synergy potential. We also benefit from the fact that as a non-profit company



*Technikzentrum Lübeck City*

with shareholders from the business sector, we are completely self-financed and have always been able to operate independently of any public or commercial influence, i.e. we are independent and in the best sense entrepreneurial ourselves – and we have to, since we do not have any institutional support or loss compensation options.

*The offer for founders has developed in Lübeck over the years. There are now various initiatives in this area. How do you see cooperation, coordination of activities or competition with such institutions?*

All the initiatives supporting entrepreneurship in Lübeck - especially the EXIST

Gründerhochschule (EXIST startup university) – are rooted in our preparatory work. Accordingly we are fully integrated and in most cases responsible. In addition, all stakeholders are organized through the BioMedTec campus together with a wide range of personal identities in the committees. The whole is more than the sum of the parts; This motto is lived in Lübeck to the advantage of all participants and especially the founders.

*...continued on following page...*

## About Dr. Raimund Mildner

*Dr. Raimund Mildner, is managing director of the “Technikzentrum Lübeck” (Technology Center Lübeck) since its beginning in 1986 and also active in other organizations promoting entrepreneurship and startups. TZ Lübeck operates three centers, which deal with the promotion of entrepreneurship and start-ups in different areas and for different target groups.*



*Mr. Mildner also is managing director of Wissenschafts- und Technologiepark Lübeck GmbH on the BioMedTec-Campus Lübeck and the UniTransferKlinik GmbH that is initiating and managing R & D projects and operates an OP-Forum Lübeck with an experimental / testing and training OP, and is an accredited test environment.*

*Thanks to many years of working in this field Mr. Mildner has seen the development of the entrepreneurship ecosystem of Lübeck and certainly can draw on wealth of experiences.*

## Hosting the BVIZ Annual Conference 2017

The 2017 conference of BVIZ, Federal German Association of Technology, Innovation, and Startup Centers will be held in Lübeck, **September 17-19, 2017.**

Hosted by UniTransferKliniki Lübeck /



Technikzentrum Lübeck the Conference will bring together the Germany ecosystem of entrepreneurship and startup support to discuss actual developments and challenges with founding and growing technology based enterprises.

**Contact:** BVIZ Andrea Glaser, email; TZ Lübeck Raimund Mildner [email](#) **SDO Profile** [UniTransferKlinik](#) [Technikzentrum Lübeck](#), [BVIZ](#)

*Interview Lübeck ... continued from previous page ... What about new clients for your centers? Are there differences depending on the orientation of the respective center? Do universities play a role in this matter?*

The primary growth takes place at our campus location. We just started work in our MFC 9 (Multi-Function Center) in operation and are ready to begin with MFC 10 - each MFC, has about 3,500 sqm usable area. Naturally due to the location and technological focus the source of the startups are the universities and scientific facilities of the BioMedTec campus.

Our TZL City center location is predestined for start-ups in trade and service, although our office "City of Science Lübeck" also is located there securing direct links and cooperation with university research and education.



Technikzentrum Lübeck Campus

Our logistics location is actually characterized by expanding production and engineering companies, which are also connected to the campus through the 4.0 themes. In this context, we are also accredited as a 4.0 test field in the Labs Network Industry 4.0 of the German industry and in the competence center "Mittelstand 4.0" of the BMWi (Federal Ministry for Economy) and are jointly building a digital hub Bio-Medicine technology on the campus.

*From Lübeck, it is not far from other sites of interest to founders, such as Hamburg. Is there information exchange and / or cooperation beyond city boundaries?*

Lübeck is integrated into the metropolitan area of Hamburg. Through the IHK Lübeck (Chamber of Commerce and Industry) one of the many shareholders of TZL, we are present in the entire Hanselbelt region between Hamburg and Fehmarn. We are particularly close-knit in the field of BioMedicine Technology Cluster, especially through the joint "Life Science North Cluster Agency" of the Federal States of Hamburg and Schleswig-Holstein.

*The geographical location of Lübeck and connections to Scandinavian countries. Is*

*this also important for company founders?*

Collaboration with and for startups across the entire Baltic Sea region is continually maintained through EU Interreg projects, e.g. at "Maker StartUp" in a cooperation of our FabLabs with institutions in Denmark, or with "LeanLanding" with 26 centers of innovation in the mutual internationalization support of startups.

*There's been a lot of talk and writing about Berlin recently. Hamburg has set out to promote business start-ups not only, but also to market them (internationally). Do you see the developments in Hamburg and Berlin as enrichment, the associated strengthening of the international reputation of the founder location Germany as helpful for Lübeck? Or are the impacts of these states of the city rather detrimental?*

Some initiatives and especially accelerators in the big cities tend to be "cargo cult" rather than being activities grounded on a deep understanding of the genesis of startups. But, this also applies to the Silicon Valley hype or similar. Anyway, where tens of thousands of students at the universities are a huge potential, a large number of startups cannot be avoided. In relation to the size of Lübeck and its comparatively small but focused colleges, I really do not see any advantage of big cities, rather on the contrary; and a "suction effect" is not recognizable for us. The small "big city" offers the better incubation conditions. In this respect, I would advocate on an international scale that Germany as a country continues to develop its reputation as a place for founders and to focus on the breadth of support initiatives, rather than on a few supposed hotspots. And here, too, I refer to the avoidance of "Cargo Cult", rather "more being than appearance".



Startups cannot buy from the international reputation. What counts is the best (and hidden) support for their company development.

*Photos in this interview: Technikzentrum Lübeck*

## Lübeck

The Hansestadt Lübeck located in the north of Germany at the Baltic Sea, 65 km north-east of Hamburg has little more than



220,000 inhabitants. Since April 2012, Lübeck is part of the European Metropolitan Region of Hamburg. The medieval Lübeck old town has been part of the UNESCO World Heritage site since 1987. The economy of the city is mainly focused on machine building, electrical engineering, precision mechanics, and wood processing. Also health and safety technologies as well as food processing are strong, for example, the famous Niederegger marzipan of Lübeck.

The harbor of Lübeck offers ferry connections to Northern Europe with more than 400,000 passengers annually. Lübeck airport serves flights to seven countries.

## Lübeck Awards promoting Entrepreneurship & Innovation

The "Gründerpreis der Sparkasse zu Lübeck", (Founder Award of Savings Bank Lübeck) endowed with € 10,000, is awarded every other year (next time in 2018 distinguishes convincing business concepts as well as strong entrepreneurial personalities and teams. This award is exclusively for students, employees and graduates of all disciplines at the University of Lübeck Lübeck universities

More details on Gründer Cube [website](#) SDO Profile [GründerCube](#)

Contact: Stefan Becker, [email](#)

**The Thomas-Fredenhagen-Prize for Technology Transfer and Patents** of the "Kaufmannschaft Lübeck" since 2016 is awarded for special achievements in technology transfer and patent and intellectual property protection. The award comes with € 10,000 and focuses on the transfer between science and practice; it promotes the interdisciplinary perspective. The prize is awarded to exemplary project activities or innovations from institutes, working groups or even individuals.

More details about the award on [website](#)

## 10,000 m<sup>2</sup> for Creative Minds

Artists and movers in the creative industry will find space to work in Hamburg's historic Speicherstadt, part of UNESCO World Cultural Heritage. About 10,000 m<sup>2</sup> of space in a historic storage building "M 28" will be made available in the first phase of renovation. 5,300 m<sup>2</sup> in the new KREATIVSPEICHER M28 are scheduled to become available in November 2017. The building owner HHLA (Hamburg Port Logistics and Stock Corp.) has started restoration and "Hamburg Kreativ Gesellschaft" called for applications of creative minds interested in becoming part of this new hub for creative industries. Companies and individuals groups can apply to rent entire floors (ca. 630 m<sup>2</sup>) for artistic and creative activities: studios, factories and workshops are possible. It is also possible to apply for smaller spaces if appli-



cants contribute to one of the utility groups  
**Contact:** Dr. Katja Wolframm, [email](#)  
**SDO Profiles:** [Kreativspeicher M28](#) and [Hamburg Kreativgesellschaft](#)

## Experienced Family Entrepreneurs and Startups learn from each other

How old and new economy can benefit from each other's experiences

The "Mittelstand" is known for being the backbone of Germany economy. Family entrepreneurs are a vital part of this sector. Orientation towards ongoing incremental



innovation and export markets as well as social conciseness are known strengths of this type of businesses. The family businesses with their association DIE FAMILIENUNTERNEHMER in cooperation with the "Hamburg Startups" have taken initiative to strengthen links and cooperation between experienced entrepreneurs and startups in Hamburg.

**InnoMatch** has been launched with a first project as an example and to learn from:

Henning Fehrmann, Managing Director of Fehrmann Metallverarbeitung GmbH, a family business in the fifth generation and Natalia Tomiyama, co-founder of the startup Nüwiel with its electrically driven bicycle trailer, were brought together by "Hamburg Startups" that published detailed information about this example in its [blog /](#) (in German language).

Hamburg Startups, in cooperation with the association, now organizes a series of events bringing potential partners together. Each of the meetings will be attended by 60-80 potential partners. Candidates will be interviewed before the respective event. The first of these events is scheduled for **May 29, 2017**. Interested startups and family business can get more information and apply for participation by email below.

**More details on [website](#)**  
**Contact:** Sina Gritzuhn, [email](#)  
**SDO Profiles** [Hamburg Startups](#) and [DIE FAMILIENUNTERNEHMER](#)

*Illustration: Hamburg Startups*

## Music WorX Hamburg Open for 2017 Applications

The Accelerator of the city of Hamburg, Music WorX has opened the round of applications for the 2017 program – this year also open for music industry startups from outside Hamburg. The applications **deadline is June 5, 2017** for the accelerator from Sep 4 to Nov 23, 2017.

Up to four young companies will be financially supported in an intense three-month program to work on further developing their business idea with the support of experts and mentors from the Hamburg music industry. Selected startups will not only receive € 5,000 euros for supporting services to develop the business idea, up to three persons per team get €1,500 each



as a supplement to cost of living. The program also includes an individually created qualification program through weekly workshops, targeted networking opportunities with Hamburg companies and industry representatives and flexible co-working facilities if required. Free accreditation at the Reeperbahn Festival Conference and the Reeperbahn Festival, participation in the Pitch at the Music WorX Final Event with another € 5,000 to win completes the offer.

**Application details** are available on the Music WorX [website](#) / **Contact:** Jenny Kornmacher, [email](#) and Jean Rehders [email](#) / **SDO Profile:** [Music WorX](#)

## Next Media Accelerator open for Applications



The Next Media Accelerator in Hamburg calls for applications for the next batch starting in July 2017. Application deadline is **May 29, 2017**.

More details on [website](#)



## Connecting Ecosystems across Continents

Building a German-Asian startup platform is the aim of **StartHubs AsiaBerlin**. This initiative of the Berlin State Government, the Senate of Berlin, in cooperation with is partnering the Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ) and supported by the Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ), is partnering with Asian startup hubs in Bangalore, Jakarta, Manila, and Berlin. Facilitated by a structured communication between the coordinators of the hubs, the project will enable direct collaboration between start-ups and result in an international startup ecosystem. StartHubs AsiaBerlin offers the opportunity to develop innovative solutions for global challenges. It aims at increasing the quality of the startups in the three partner cities. The Asian partners are

**Philippines:** [Impact Hub Manila](#), founded 2015, offers access to incubation programs, corporate innovation workshops, entrepreneurial leadership training, workspace, and a vibrant learning community at five locations in the Manila.

**Indonesia:** The [Platform Usaha Sosial](#) (PLUS) is an online collaborative space for social entrepreneurs in Indonesia to connect, learn, share and create more meaningful impact to community and environment. PLUS enables social entrepreneurs to create and collaborate with other entre-



preneurs, investors, incubators, experts and other to help this community grow. PLUS is committed to serving the Indonesian social entrepreneurs, developing a strong ecosystem for Indonesia social entrepreneurship, and educating, learning and growing together.

**India:** With more than 6,000 members and over 60 years of experience the [Indo-German Chamber of Commerce](#) (IGCC) is part of the global German Chamber Network (AHKs). Present at 130 locations in 90 countries around this network is offering international business experience, connections and services to German and foreign companies.

StartHubs AsiaBerlin is coordinated by the Berlin Senate Department for Economics, Technology, and Research setting the framework for the activities and enhancing the innovative strength and export power of Berlin based companies.

More about StartHubs AsiaBerlin [website](#)

**Contact:** Sabine Tauber, [email](#)

**SDO Profiles** [StartHubs AsiaBerlin](#), [Impact Hub Manila](#), [PLUS Coworking](#), [Indo-German Chamber of Commerce](#)

## EU-Startups Conference in Berlin

The 4<sup>th</sup> edition of the annual EU-Startups Conference was held in Berlin at the HTW Berlin, **April 13, 2017** with more than 250 participants

The event showcased a selection of Europe's hottest startups. 400+ participants (founders, start-up enthusiasts, corporates, angel investors, VCs as well as media) attended to learn from successful European entrepreneurs. [HTW Berlin](#), University of Applied Sciences, location sponsor of the event, actively supports startups through its [Startup Competence Center](#) operating at two locations in Berlin.

The EU-Startups Conference 2017 in the HTW

HTW Audimax was perfect for aspiring entrepreneurs and investors aiming to build international Europe-based companies. Fireside chats with successful Founders and a [pitch competition](#) with 15 startups completed the program.

Speakers were, for example, Jesper Buch, founder of [just-eat.com](#) and [Miinto Group](#); Peter Vesterbacka co-founder of [Lightneer](#); Stephan Uhrenbacher, founder and CEO of [FLIO](#), the global airport app,

## Asia-Europe Dialogue on Digitalization

Asia-Pacific Weeks, APW, since 1997 is Europe's unique platform for interdisciplinary dialogue and cooperation between Asia and Europe. APW 2017 in Berlin to be held May 15-28, 2017 will be celebrating its 20th anniversary. This "Dialogue on Digitalization" will explore the 4<sup>th</sup> industrial revolution and its impact on economies and society; a crucial development for governments and

civil society worldwide. Among topics are smart cities, industry 4.0, digitalization, startups, their ecosystems and innovation. Experts from fast-growing and high-tech affine Asia-Pacific regions are invited to discuss perspectives with representatives of German innovation and entrepreneurship ecosystems.

The conference program will continue connecting Startup Cities, building on the successful conferences of 2015 and 2016. This year a special focus will be on the cities Bangalore, Jakarta, and Manila. The APW cultural program will be hosted by event partners and presented at various venues across Berlin. **Participation** is free of charge; registration on [website](#)

**Contact:** Anette Heimann, [email](#) **SDO Profile** [StartHubs Asia-Pacific](#)



Raffaella Rein, founder and CEO of [CareerFoundry](#); Jeff Burton, co-founder of [Electronic Arts](#) (EA) and Jeroen De Witt, founder and CEO of [Teamleader](#)

**Contact:** Thomas Ohr, [email](#) More information [conference website](#)

*Illustration: EU Startups Conference [website](#)*



## Friendsfactory by etventure combines Offers in München Schwabing

Friendsfactory and etventure have partnered to provide a completed range of services to startup companies. Friendsfactory offers office and co-working facilities in several locations in Germany and now combined this offer the experiences of etventure made, for example, with its European Innovation Hub in Berlin.



"Friendsfactory by etventure" is the name for this cooperation that opened its first co-working space / accelerator mid 2016 in Munich Schwabing. The new joint venture will be led by Laura Kohler, CEO of the etventure subsidiary [European Innovation Hub](#), and Gregor Gebhardt, CEO of Friends Factory.

A "targeted startup build and mentor program" is the offer provided through a membership model to support startups accelerating their business in an innovative work environment. "We are focusing on a 'guided community', meaning that by a central community manager, we are specif-

cally supporting the creation of a network and working with contacts helping in concrete terms," says Gregor Gebhardt, "This creates a workspace and community that provides an ideal eco-system and an innovative work environment for start-ups and companies." The partner etventure uses its extensive experience and

methodical know-how, both in setting up its own start-ups, such as mobileJob, POS-pulse or 360report, as well as the expertise in developing digital business models. "The start-ups receive concrete support for setting up their business. This is similar to an accelerator program, for which start-ups would have to give company shares in return," explains Laura Kohler, CEO of the European Innovation Hub.

For more details see etventure [blog](#)  
**Contact:** Gregor Gebhardt [email](#) and Laura Kohler, [email](#)

**SDO Profiles** [European Innovation Hub](#)  
Friends Factory Munich [Schwabing](#)

## Munich's Founders Festival in 25 Years from 80 to 5,000

At the first event, a Munich breakfast meeting in 2013, 80 people came to the Hofbäuhaus. Since then **Bits & Pretzels** has grown to a three-day event with 5,000 attendees, a max set by the organizers. This year September 24-26 is the date for



the annual Munich **Founders' Festival** held in combination with the famous "Oktoberfest". Again 5,000 startups will meet with each other and investors, media as well as successful entrepreneurs like the founders of Virgin, Airbnb or Evernote. At the grand finale every table will be hosted by a Table Captain and attendees can choose one of those handpicked CEOs, editors-in-chief or investors before the event even starts.

**Contact:** Bits&Pretzels Team [email](#)  
More information [website](#); Tickets [online](#)

## Create Creative Businesses in Munich

The Institute for Cultural Management and Media of the University for Music and Theater München, provides the competences for creative and successful work within today's cultural enterprise.

The four-semester full-time Master's course in Cultural and Music Management starts every year. All students of the university may take advantage of a practice seminar at the "Cultural Entrepreneurship Lab (CEL)".

During the second and third semesters, the students in small teams develop a cultural business model from the initial artistic vision to the complete business plan.

From setting up a singing agency to the creation of a record label or the initiation

of a new festival, everything is possible. The process is accompanied by regular coaching appointments with the lecturers and by workshops with external guest speakers from culture and business, including the topics of design thinking, online marketing and pitch presentations. At the end of the first half of the CEL the results are presented and discussed in a plenum. On this basis, the business plans are then refined in the second semester. At the end of the CEL, the business plans are presented at a large investor event and evaluated by experienced entrepreneurs, investors and cultural professionals.

The students receive valuable feedback as well as concrete suggestions and advice.



advice and contacts with investors.

Examples of business plans students have dealt with are

**Chorus mood:** An event for singing and listening to choirs for audiences

from all over Germany.

**Dig: art:** Art presented digitally in a relaxed atmosphere and club ambience.

**Lake Starnberg Festival:** A monumental opera spectacle in front of a unique natural Alpine Panorama.

**POP UP Creative Spaces:** Online platform to bring real estate owners and creatives together, for temporary use of empty spaces.

**Contact:** Kristin Ascoop [email](#)  
**SDO Profile:** [CEL](#)

## Incubator Quality

SPICA Directory is using a minimum “quality standard” for being listed on “SPICA World Map”. This standard does not evaluate the quality of an organization supporting, but only checks if information in the profile is sufficiently complete and actual.

SPICA World Map shows locations of incubators, accelerators, co-working spaces, technology parks, associations, consulting firms as well as support and finance organizations. Different colors and shapes (for the various types of organizations) to ease identification

### SPICA World Map

The map is the main entry point for directory users. The profiles in SPICA Directory can be accessed from here. Additionally, the “search” function can be used.

[www.spica-directory.net/map](http://www.spica-directory.net/map)



### Not yet in SPICA Directory?

You do not need to wait until “somebody” is adding your offer to the directory. You can add information yourself at any time. After you have registered for SPICA Directory (free of charge) just use tab **add a new profile** to insert your profile.

### Developing SPICA Directory

We continuously are working to develop SPICA Directory.

The directory meanwhile includes accelerators and co-working spaces as well as finance sector organizations, education and training offers as well as research institutions and public organizations supporting entrepreneurship and startups. We work on making use of experiences from directory users.

Under the project title

### SPICee Entrepreneurship Ecosystems

We are looking for volunteers who are interested in making their “home ecosystem” them” better known and help entrepreneurs and startups getting access to the needed resources Other tasks are developing new We also look for **software developers** who voluntarily help developing the system. Interested? To **join the team** contact us at [spicee@spica-directory.net](mailto:spicee@spica-directory.net)

## New on SPICA World Map



**Germany: TechQuartier** in Frankfurt / Main is a new FinTech accelerator / co-working space of Germany’s finance industry. TQ intends to serve as a hub for FinTech startups and as a focal access point to the FinTech community.

**SDO Profile:** [TechQuartier](#)



**Germany:** The office and co-working space **Friends Factory** offers its services in Berlin, Hamburg, München and Starnberg. Further locations are planned to be opened soon. In Munich accelerator services are offered.

**SDO Profile:** [Munich City](#), [Schwabing](#)



**South Korea:** SeoulGSC is an international incubator founded in 2016 to help companies from other countries to access the Korean startup ecosystem and economy. At this time SeoulGSC is working with the second batch of entrepreneurs.

**SDO Profile:** [SeoulGSC](#)



**Finland:** The new co-working space

**Werstas** is located in Electro City of Turku Science Park. The owners focus on building a community that shares its knowledge, learns and grows.

**SDO Profile:** [Werstas](#)



**Netherlands:** The co-working space **CIC Rotterdam** is the latest addition to the CIC network. Established in 1996 in Cambridge, MA, CIC is also operating in Boston, St. Louis, and Miami. CIC cooperates with its non-profile sister company Venture Café.

**SDO Profile:** [CIC Rotterdam](#)



**Egypt:** Combine co-working with sun, beach, and fun **CoworkInn Dahab** is located directly at the ocean in the Blue Beach Club. Clients may work inside or outdoors as they like. And the place to swim is right next to the workplace.

**SDO Profile:** [CoworkInn Dahab](#)



**Estonia:** The cleantech network organization **Cleantech ForEst** aims to accelerate Estonian green innovation and develop a supporting ecosystem for it. It builds a collaboration between cleantech businesses, government organizations and research

**SDO Profile:** [Cleantech ForEst](#)



**Denmark: Vækstfabrikkerne.** The Growth Factory is a network of 10 incubators / co-working spaces in the country. Activities include the “**Center for Growth Analysis**”, creating fact-based knowledge about growth companies

**SDO Profile:** [Vækstfabrikkerne](#)



**France:** SPLIT Coworking in Paris is a community of professionals in communication, advertising, media, production and digital technologies. SPLIT is located in the 18th district of Paris, a young and arty district in full development.,

**SDO Profile:** [Split Coworking](#)



**Thailand:** The co-working space **COMET Office** provides all facilities for freelancers, professionals as well as small companies. The modern loft serviced office with wise space utilization also offers a dynamic community.

**SDO Profile:** [Comet Office](#)



**Germany:** Besides workspaces, offices, meeting places and technical facilities **KrämerLoft** in Erfurt offers a maker space for those working not only digitally. There even is a separate **playroom for kids**

**SDO Profile:** [KrämerLoft](#)



**Singapore: Collective Works** operates co-working spaces at two locations: Capital Towers and Cecile Street. Both locations offer a wide range of facilities for working and meeting in excellent business locations.

**SDO profile:** [Collective Works](#)



**Poland:** The co-working space **Brain Embassy** is located in Poland’s Capital Warsaw and offers 250 working spaces on 1.700 m<sup>2</sup> of space. The FinTech accelerator Huge Thing from Poznan is hosting its selected client firms in Brain Embassy.

**SDO Profile:** [Brain Embassy](#)



**United Arab Emirates:** The new fintech accelerator program **Fintech Hive** is located in DIFC; Dubai International Financial Centre. Startups are housed together major banks and financial institutions .

**SDO Profile:** [Fintech Hive](#)



May 9+10, 2017 in York, UK: UKSPA Conference

UKSPA will hold the conference "Science, Innovation and Translation, The Design and Operation of Research laboratories, Incubators and Science Park Facilities. with 60+ sessions on a wide variety of topics, and exhibition and a gala dinner. More information on on UKSPA [website](#)



May 10 – 12, 2017 in Berlin, CUBE Final and Tech Fair

CUBE was launched in Berlin in early June 2016 as a global digital transformation ecosystem. The winner of the global CUBE Challenge will take home €1 million. The CUBE Challenge Finale will take place at the CUBE Tech Fair on May 10-12, 2017 in Berlin. More details on CUBE [website](#)



May 10, 2017 in Dublin, Ireland. FutureScope

The technology ecosystem meets in Ireland at FutureScope that brings together thought-leaders from the technology ecosystem to share perspectives on evolving trends in the main areas IoT, Fintech, Data Analytics and Future World with offstage panels on such key verticals. More on [website](#)



POLISH BUSINESS AND INNOVATION CENTERS ASSOCIATION

May 22 - 24, 2017 in Olsztyn, Poland: Polish Innovation Centers meet to celebrate

The 27<sup>th</sup> Annual conference 2017 of PBICA (Polish Business and Innovation Center Association) will be held in Olsztyn on May 22 – 24, 2017 in cooperation with the University of Warmia and Mazury in Olsztyn. Main topics will be Internationalization of companies and Innovation Centers, Practical aspects of investing in start-ups, Monitoring the effectiveness of Innovation Centers, Business models for commercialization of research results, and Effective educational programs. This conference will offer presentations of Polish and foreign experts, speed dating for Conference participants, and celebrate the **25<sup>th</sup> Anniversary PBICA**. More information and registration will be offered on the conference [website](#) soon. **Contact** Marzena Mazewska [email](#) SDO Profile [PBICA](#)



May 15 - 17, 2017: 13th Annual INSME Meeting in Mexico

Under the headline "Improving Productivity in SMEs and Their Role in Global Value Chains" the 13th INSME Annual Meeting INSME will take place in **Puerto Vallarta, Mexico**. It will be an international event that promises to be a major gateway to Latin America. Mire information on [website](#)



Jun 20, 2017 Berlin, Germany: HEUREKA

The **HEUREKA Founders Conference** is one of the main events for early stage startups and investors. It offers a platform to connect the stakeholders of the digital economy. HEUREKA 2017 will be held **June 20, 2017 in Berlin**. More information on [website](#)



May 31, 2017 Reykjavik Iceland: Startup Iceland 2017

Startup Iceland's flagship conference is held for the sixth time for Startups, Founders, Entrepreneurs, Mentors and Investors. The event combines TED style talks, networking and the opportunity for every event. catalyst events that sparked the Icelandic startup community. More on [website](#)



June 28-29, 2017 in Singapore: Echelon Asia Summit 2017

Echelon, held annually since 2009, is a digital platform engaging over 6,000 industry leaders and professionals from all over Asia that also features a two-day technology and business conference held annually in Singapore. The Echelon Ecosystem experience provides premium resources from world-class influencers, cross-border business matching and qualified structured networking opportunities, keeping the ecosystem engaged all throughout the year. More on conference [website](#)



Jun 22-23, 2017 in Berlin, Germany: Third NOAH Berlin Conference

The third **NOAH Berlin** conference will connect leaders from "traditional champions" with their "digital challengers", such as Trivago and FlixBus, Funding Circle and KIVI-Com. In the section "traditional champion attendees will find speakers from the "who is who" of industry. More on [website](#)



Jul 5 – 7, 2017 in Enghien-les Bains, France: EBN Congress

The Annual Congress of EBN, European Business and Innovation Center Network will be held July 5 – 7 in Enghien-les Bains north of Paris under the title "OPEN Ecosystems for Innovation". More details will be made available soon on the EBN [website](#)



July 11 – 14, 2017 TOA, Tech Open Air in Berlin

The **conference** connects with top-tier entrepreneurs, artists, and scientists at a beautiful location. Experience storytelling, panels, knowshops, pillowtalks, art installations, live music, The **satellite events** allow to explore the startup ecosystem of the city. More on TOA [website](#)



Aug 31, 2017 in Thessaloniki, Greece: ICEIRD 2017

The **ICEIRD 2017: Coproducing Knowledge, Innovation & Growth** will promote knowledge exchange through the participation of academics, commercialization practitioners, policymakers, entrepreneurs, innovators, and companies to enhance the impact of university-industry links. More details [website](#)



Sep 6+7, 2017: 10th SA Innovation Summit 2017 in Cape Town, South Africa

The 10<sup>th</sup> SA Innovation Summit will be celebrated aims at becoming the place for igniting an innovation revolution for entrepreneurs, the go-to place for inspiration and networking. Competitions, exhibitions, matching events, meetings with investors and sessions with thought leaders. More on [website](#)



Sep 26-29, 2017 in Istanbul, Turkey: IASP World Conference 2017

The IASP World conference 2017 under the headline "Science parks and natural innovation ecosystems: Articulating future strategies" with main theme blocks: Innovative funding schemes, Service mechanisms, and Rethinking space. Full details are available on [website](#)



Sep 17-19, 2017 in Lübeck, Germany: BVIZ Annual Conference 2017

BVIZ, German association of business and innovation centers, will hold its annual conference in the historic city of Lübeck, Germany. Hosted by the Technikzentrum / UniTransferKlinik Lübeck GmbH. More information will be made available on the association's [website](#) SDO Profile [BVIZ](#) **Contact:** Andrea Glaser [email](#) SDO Profile host: [Technikzentrum Lübeck](#), website host [www.unitransferklinik.de](http://www.unitransferklinik.de) **Contact:** Raimund Mildner [email mildner@tzt.de](#)

Imprint: SPICE Update is the newsletter of SPICE Group. It is published 4 - 6 times per year and regularly is delivered free of charge to members of the network as well as selected partners. Articles for publication are invited and will be published under the name of the author.

Although we do our best for making sure that published information is correct we cannot accept responsibility for errors that may occur nor for website links provided.

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