

# GLOBAL ENTREPRENEURSHIP NETWORK



IMPACT REPORT | 2017



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# A MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

WELCOME TO GEN



A few months ago, during Global Entrepreneurship Week, many of you across the globe joined in celebrating the birthday of a common man who did uncommon things. Had he been alive, Ewing Marion Kauffman from Kansas City would have been 100 years old. The communities that form the Global Entrepreneurship Network working in more than 165 countries to inspire, connect, understand and support entrepreneurs are a reflection of his generosity and determination.

In 2017, we celebrate our own birthday. This November will be the 10th anniversary of Global Entrepreneurship Week. Since it launched in 77 countries in 2008, GEW has been the impetus behind more than 120,000 events, activities and competitions – with nearly 60 million participants – to help people unleash their ideas and take the next step in their entrepreneurial journey. It has also fostered connections among entrepreneurs, mentors, investors, researchers, policymakers and others involved in helping new firms start and scale.

As it grew and evolved, GEW gave rise to GEN which now provides a year-round platform of programs and initiatives to help entrepreneurs and shape and strengthen entrepreneurship ecosystems all around the world.

Through our competitions like Startup

Open, Get in the Ring, the Creative Business Cup, the 1776 Challenge Cup, the Future Ago Challenge and the dozens more competitions operating on our Startup Compete platform, we have been able to welcome extraordinary founders from across the world into our peer-to-peer network called the GEN Starters Club.

We support them through efforts like the Global Enterprise Registration site at [ger.co](http://ger.co) – encouraging governments to streamline their business registration processes – and our Global Business Angels Network of early stage investors from 53 countries. We also are launching an effort this year to match mid-tier cities across the world to develop collaborative projects among local entrepreneurs.

GEN also works closely with startup policymakers to remove barriers to new firm

formation. One example is our three-year agreement with the U.S. Government to convene a ministerial as part of the Global Entrepreneurship Congress each spring.

GEN has also built a Startup Nations policymaker network with 73 members and has launched a Startup Nations Atlas of Policies ([startupnations.co/snap](http://startupnations.co/snap)) to collect and analyze policy proposals and public programs under way around the world.

Alongside all this, whether to inform better support programs or smarter policymaking, we have built the Global Entrepreneurship Research Network, led by the Kauffman Foundation, to align those that fund entrepreneurship research to better understand which interventions are most effective in helping entrepreneurship flourish.

Naturally as a network, we are connecting all these pieces through our virtual platform GEN Connect at [genglobal.org/connect](http://genglobal.org/connect), as well as through our live events, such as our annual Global Entrepreneurship Congress. We have also developed an entrepreneurship event with the White House in Silicon Valley bringing investors and entrepreneurs together from around the world; kicked off a new series of events, called GEC+, in Daegu, Korea on entrepreneurship education and held our Startup Nations Summit for policymakers in Ireland during GEW 2016.

For many of us however, the most significant development of 2016 was what changed in our world. A wave of uncertainty and rapid change is sweeping across the globe evidenced in both our elections and the disruption of traditional industries. While many may be anxious about these uncertainties, entrepreneurs see opportunities.

Inspiring tens of millions of people over

the past 10 GEW campaigns to consider entrepreneurship at some point in their life journey has generated an army of nascent startups keen to validate and scale their visions – aimed at complex, regulated industries like health care, transportation, energy and education.

While GEN connects investors, established corporations, educators, researchers, governments, policymakers, entrepreneurs and entrepreneurial support programs, the opportunity ahead now lies in our pursuing a vision bigger than the sum of its parts.

We need your input to help us reach for the big ideas.

At GEN, we know that innovation knows no borders. We are focused on what is common among the actors within the global entrepreneurial ecosystem and we believe entrepreneurs across the world are poised for a new renaissance.

We hope you will join GEN us at [genglobal.org](http://genglobal.org) and, as Mr. Kauffman showed us....be uncommon.



# GEN GLOBAL BOARD

## GLOBAL ENTREPRENEURSHIP NETWORK LEADERSHIP

The GEN Global Board works to provide leadership and guidance to GEN's mission to create one global entrepreneurial ecosystem.



**NEIL DHILLON**

HEAD OF INTERNATIONAL  
RELATIONS  
SAUDI ARAMCO



**GEORGE GROB**

PRESIDENT  
CENTER FOR PUBLIC  
PROGRAM EVALUATION



**DONNA HARRIS**

CO-FOUNDER  
1776



**JEFF HOFFMAN**

PARTNER/CO-FOUNDER  
COLORJAR



**REBECA HWANG**

MANAGING PARTNERS  
RIVET VENTURES



**ERIK PAGES**

PRESIDENT  
ENTREWORKS CONSULTING



**TOM SULLIVAN**

VICE PRESIDENT, SMALL  
BUSINESS POLICY  
U.S. CHAMBER OF COMMERCE



**CRIS TURNER**

MANAGER FOR GOVERNMENT  
AFFAIRS  
DELL



**JONATHAN ORTMAN**

PRESIDENT  
GLOBAL ENTREPRENEURSHIP  
NETWORK



# WHAT IS GEN?

BUILDING ONE GLOBAL ENTREPRENEURIAL ECOSYSTEM



The Global Entrepreneurship Network provides a year-round platform of programs and initiatives aimed at creating one global entrepreneurial ecosystem. GEN helps people in more than 165 countries unleash their ideas and turn them into promising new ventures—creating jobs, accelerating innovation and strengthening economic stability around the world.

Ranging from efforts to inspire and educate nascent entrepreneurs to advancing research and connecting global leaders, GEN operates in all types of economies and cultures.



## Shaping One Global Ecosystem

The globalization of entrepreneurship has brought an explosion of programs, startup communities and investment into an evolving field with a lack of clarity about what works – and what doesn't – in helping nascent entrepreneurs start and scale. Traditional business, education and government leaders have been eager champions but they need next generation tools, programs and research to help direct their attention and resources to areas that can have the greatest impact.

GEN is a compass to help address these needs by identifying effective initiatives that positively impact whole societies and interventions that target the most critical areas for entrepreneurial ecosystems around the world.

### OUR IMPACT

GEN's intensifying focus on entrepreneurial ecosystems helps communities, cities and countries grow and reach their potential faster and more efficiently—having a direct and positive effect on:

**Entrepreneurs** – GEN helps promising founders start and scale new companies

with a potential to disrupt traditional industries through enhanced competitions, programs and real-world ecosystem connections.

**Investors** – GEN introduces individuals, groups and firms who can provide early stage capital to talented local founder teams who are ready to flourish.

**Policymakers** – GEN facilitates connections with entrepreneurs and other ecosystem members to help them develop and implement practically focused policies intended to encourage dynamism, increase diversity and stimulate metabolic activity.

**Educators** – GEN increases the number of individuals seeking entrepreneurship education courses and programs while providing them with richer connections and inputs to hone their methodologies and rapidly iterate to build well-grounded programs that scale.

**Programmatic researchers** – GEN helps provide a greater volume of nascent entrepreneurs – and the programs that expand to support them – to serve as research subjects while enabling them to engage in collaborative projects with other research institutions.

GEN's goal is to have more entrepreneurs, more collaborative ecosystems, born-global founders and communities and a deeper understanding of entrepreneurship.



# THE GEN UNIVERSE

165+ NATIONS

GLOBAL FORUMS + EVENTS



CONNECT

ERSTAND



RESEARCH + POLICY

PIRATION

GLOBAL  
ENTREPRENEURSHIP  
WEEK

CELEBRATE

GEN

UND

SHIP

SUPPORT

PROGRAMS + RESOURCES

STARTUP  
HUDDLE

STARTUP  
EXPERIENCE

GLOBAL BUSINESS  
ANGELS NETWORK

GLOBAL  
ENTERPRISE  
REGISTRATION

STARTUP  
OPEN

STARTUP  
COMPETE

GEN  
STARTERS  
CLUB

# GEN COUNTRY

GEN has emerged as a trusted partner to both national governments and key private sector organizations working to foster entrepreneurial growth – and GEN Country affiliates play an essential role by connecting leading organizations and experts who possess deep reserves of knowledge and experience.

GEN continues to roll out new GEN Country affiliates across the globe. These GEN operations help align a comprehensive and diverse collection of organizations, individuals, programs and information to better support national entrepreneurship. This alignment helps streamline efforts and minimize competition among those with limited resources while maximizing impact.

GEN Country affiliates provide national leadership in the effort by:

- convening and connecting ecosystem players;
- promoting and supporting the most effective organizations and initiatives in the country especially in terms of preferred vendors and global visibility;
- amplifying outreach and increasing awareness;
- evaluating and endorsing tried and tested programs;
- serving as a source of quantifiable data and qualitative information; and
- acting as a hub for sharing knowledge and experience.



ALGERIA

"Being part of GEN was exciting and very empowering in so many ways that I wanted it to be more permanent and sustainable. The GEN affiliate in Algeria will enable us to build, strengthen and empower a community, build a sustainable platform structured around year-round activities and competitions, and connect the community to institutions, universities, administrations, on the one hand, and to the rest of the world through GEN, on the other hand."  
- Soumeya Rachedi + Fatiha Rachedi



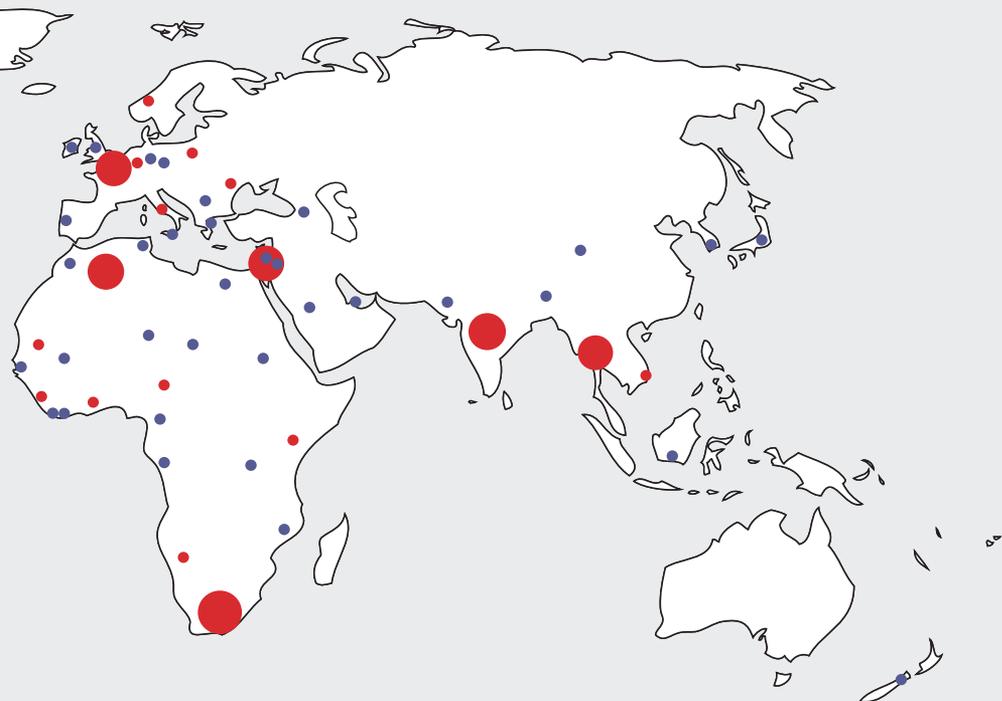
BELGIUM

"Our main motivation to setup the GEN Belgium affiliate is to offer a platform that can be used for further coordination and closer cooperation between existing initiatives. Some can be showcased as best practices and others can benefit from the international reach that GEN offers. We choose to co-found GEN Belgium with seven major employer organizations as they all have great knowledge and support programs, and access to the existing economy."  
- Freddy Nurski



SOUTH AFRICA

"In South Africa, economic growth and development is reliant on building sustainable and innovative ecosystems. The aim and role of GEN South Africa is to advocate and encourage collaboration among ecosystem role players within the country and in Africa as a whole. GEN SA will assist to position the country within the continent and global markets, increasing access to global resources and opportunities."  
- Kizito Okechukwu



- Newly Launched GEN Countries
- GEN Countries Scheduled to Launch



### ISRAEL

Israel is extremely entrepreneurial, yet only a tiny percentage of its citizens enjoy the fruits of the "Startup Nation" economic miracle. GEN Israel thus focuses on the social periphery, with a strong emphasis on the Arab minority, which is 20% of the population. GEN Israel has cooperated with more than 100 organizations for GEW and other initiatives, led by Managing Director **Ayia Matalon**.



### MYANMAR

In 2015, GEW became the largest entrepreneurship event in Myanmar with 6,000+ participants at 55+ events. To anchor, widen and sustain the development of this new culture in the country, Managing Director **Emmanuel Maillard** initiated the creation of GEN Myanmar. With the support of USAID, in close collaboration with the government of Myanmar and the private sector, GEN Myanmar organizes international study tours, hackathons, unconferences, and other collaborative platforms.



### INDIA

GEN India is working closely with various partners to understand the impact of entrepreneurship in India, celebrate entrepreneurship as well as empower more and more youngsters to start their own ventures in order to generate maximum jobs and create economic stability and prosperity in the country. **Yatin Thakur**, GEN India's managing director, is a serial entrepreneur working toward building social and economic stability in India.



# A WORLD OF IMPACT

ACROSS THE GLOBAL  
ENTREPRENEURSHIP NETWORK



# PLATFORMS WITH IMPACT

CELEBRATE, CONNECT, UNDERSTAND + SUPPORT



The Global Entrepreneurship Network provides a year-round platform of programs and initiatives aimed at strengthening one global entrepreneurial ecosystem.

The Global Entrepreneurship Network is comprised of programs, projects and initiatives that bring together multiple players in the global entrepreneurial ecosystem organized through themes of CELEBRATE, CONNECT, UNDERSTAND and SUPPORT.

Through CELEBRATE, GEN works to promote a more entrepreneurial culture by celebrating the successes of entrepreneurs and inspiring the next generation.

GEN CONNECTS entrepreneurs, investors, policymakers, researchers, startup community leaders and others across the globe.

The Network's programs and resources are intended to SUPPORT the path to

market for founder teams and provide entrepreneurs with mentoring, peer connections, and competitions that help them through the stages of starting and scaling their ventures.

Efforts to help increase the quality and quantity of data and research available to policymakers and startup community leaders is part of the GEN theme UNDERSTAND, to help identify best-in-class programs and policies to advance local and national entrepreneurial growth.

# CELEBRATE

GLOBAL ENTREPRENEURSHIP WEEK



The world needs more entrepreneurs, but not all ecosystems enjoy the entrepreneurial culture that is prevalent in startup hubs like Silicon Valley, Singapore and Sao Paolo. Celebrating the successes and impact of entrepreneurs can break down cultural barriers and reach new audiences.

Global Entrepreneurship Week board members include:

- **Susan Amat**  
Executive Director  
The Launch Pad at Toppel
- **Elmira Bayrasli**  
Co-Founder  
Foreign Policy Interrupted
- **Neil Dhillon**  
Head of International Relations  
Saudi Aramco
- **Kevin Langley**  
Founder and CEO  
Ellis Construction
- **Jonathan Ortmans**  
President  
GEN

## Global Entrepreneurship Week

From startup competitions and local workshops, to recognition and support of government leaders from around the world — more than 8.6 million people celebrated Global Entrepreneurship Week in 164 countries with the help of more than 17,000 partners and activities.

Deputy President Cyril Ramaphosa and Minister of Small Business Development Lindiwe Zulu of South Africa opened Global Entrepreneurship Week in Johannesburg, launching the theme of digital disruption and opening dialogue for the Global Entrepreneurship Congress in March.

With more than 37,000 events held around the world, GEW highlights we have received have spanned from individual stories of entrepreneurs who were inspired to take a leap of faith, to government leaders who champion startup policy. The following impact stories barely scrape the surface of the amazing work GEN countries and partners have accomplished during Global Entrepreneurship Week 2016.

## CHINA

This past November, China celebrated its 10th year for organizing a global entrepreneurship week. China has established well-attended and relevant events throughout its time organizing GEW, but expanded its programs this year to include an executives annual meeting, DoerLink Top 500 Innovation Demands Release Conference, and a day focusing on innovation in artificial intelligence “AI Day: The Future of AI.” AI Day featured demonstrations and information on hard technology, healthcare, games, finance, virtual reality/augmented reality, and other active fields.

During the past 10 years, more young entrepreneurs have developed scientific views of employment and entrepreneurship, while the GEW organizing host Shanghai Technology Entrepreneurship Foundation for Graduates (EFG), has gathered a large number of incubators and entrepreneurial service organizations due to the development of GEW China, and become the cradle and base for entrepreneurs. The new forms of early-stage entrepreneurial projects provide new impetus for the innovation of more and more colossus companies.

## KOSOVO

The U.S. Ambassador to Kosovo, Greg Delawie gave the keynote speech for GEW Kosovo during the opening day, and discussed the World Bank’s Doing Business 2017 report results featuring Kosovo ranking in the Top 15 countries in the world for starting a business.

Some themes featured during GEW 2016 in Kosovo included entrepreneurship in education and access to finance for business.

## GERMANY

Germany celebrated Global Entrepreneurship Week with a variety of events, with several focused specifically on women in entrepreneurship. During one day of GEW, a telephone hotline was open for women to call and ask questions about starting a business and becoming an entrepreneur.

Germany had more than 1,500 events scheduled for the week, with more than 1,000 partners organizing events across the country. Not only did Germany celebrate the five global themes, but they also featured discussions about migrants and refugees, and senior entrepreneurship.



## **BONAIRE**

GEN board member Jeff Hoffman, co-founder of Colorjar, visited Bonaire during Global Entrepreneurship Week to speak to entrepreneurs at the closing gala. He spoke about launching and running a successful business in a small community.

GEW Bonaire opened with a student competition, where six young finalists had to pitch their ideas to a panel of judges.

## **BRAZIL**

The GEW host organization in Brazil –

## **SOUTH KOREA**

The GEW South Korea host reported that an educator at a vocational school recently introduced an entrepreneurship workshop for her students after 25 years of teaching. The teacher said she worked hard to customize materials and adjust her teaching methods and pedagogy for the next two years – and now said she feels that her student's self-esteem seems to have improved thanks to using and teaching entrepreneurial skills. During GEW, as part of the educators' training workshop,

GEW catalyzes local communities in different ecosystems and economies around the world to support entrepreneurs and encourage new firm formation.

Endeavor Brazil – is not only well underway to establishing GEN Brazil, but they have also come up with an innovative, effective and inclusive way of ensuring GEN Brazil covers the whole country.

GEW Brazil launched a selection process to recruit local GEN leaders. They are looking for GEN leadership candidates in 32 cities in Brazil. Those who are passionate about wanting to make a difference to their cities and have the ambition to lead the efforts to transform their city were invited to apply.

## **SOUTH AFRICA**

GEN President Jonathan Ortmans, Deputy President Cyril Ramaphosa and Minister of Small Business Development Lindiwe Zulu of South Africa opened Global Entrepreneurship Week in Johannesburg, ahead of the GEC in March.

One competition hosted by GEN South Africa, the Idea Space Fair competition for entrepreneurs, selected a winner that will have an opportunity to pitch their business on the global stage at the Global Entrepreneurship Congress.

there was an outline created for public and private schools to include entrepreneurship as part of regular courses through 2018.

## **IRAQ**

MyeDream, the GEW host for Iraq and Kurdistan celebrations, featured events for entrepreneurs, and included a keynote speech from His Excellency Minister of Labor Mohamed Qadir Hawdiani, who emphasized the importance of building the private sector in the region and encouraged young people to start their own businesses.

## **LIBYA**

In Libya, GEW celebrations were a success with more than 12,000 people attending various events in a number of cities, including Albaydha, Derna and Shahat. GEW Libya ended with a closing ceremony that was attended by the Deputy Prime Minister and the Minister of Education. Hosted by the National Board for Technical and Vocational Education/ Ministry of Education, with 35 partner organizations, GEW was widely covered in national television and radio.



## GEW 2016 Essays

### ***Entrepreneurship Has Become a Beacon of Hope in Wartorn Syria***

It is no secret that Syria is mired in a vicious war that is tearing the country apart and threatening international security. Yet as in other places, it is the youth who shoulder the heaviest burden of conflict and poverty.

There are now more than 4.8 million registered Syrian refugees, with around 1 in 3 Syrian children experiencing nothing but war in their lifetime. Inside Syria, 2.1 million children are out of school, and 500,000 are at risk of dropping out. Among the refugee population, more than 916,000 (56 percent) school-age Syrian children are out of school across the region. Nearly 7 million children inside Syria live in poverty, and levels of recruitment and use of children in hostilities are increasing.

As a result of these and other traumas, Syrian human development has regressed by more than four decades during the war. The country now ranks 134th in the United Nations Human Development Index, a precipitous decline of 28 spots over the

past five years.

Much has been written about this sad reality. But beneath the rubble and human tragedy is a foundation of hope for the future.

### **Succeeding under intense pressure**

Long known as an enterprising people, Syrians are renowned as merchants, craftsmen and tradesmen, with a highly skilled workforce. Syrian educational attainment levels have historically been among the highest in the region. While the crisis has shut the door to many opportunities on Syrian young people, that enterprising spirit is engrained in the Syrian psyche and has not been extinguished.

Syrians are used to working under conditions of hardship. As the subject of various international sanctions over the course of several decades, the Syrian business community has proven incredibly resilient. Our colleague and executive director of the Syrian Economic Forum (SEF) Tammam Al Baroudi, for example, manufactured sophisticated diamond-cutting blades in the industrial heartland of Aleppo which could not be imported. As the old adage goes, diamonds are indeed

 164 countries

Each year, GEW continues to grow larger, adding new countries, new hosts and new activities to local communities around the world.

+17k partners

Without the help and support of both private and public sponsors, host organizations, and event organizers, GEW would not happen.

+37k events

Our GEW 2016 host organizations reach out to local partners and supporters to host events across their countries.

 \$145M

With the help from local partners, GEW organizers catalyzed more than \$145 million in U.S. Dollars to support entrepreneurship in their communities.

 8.6M people

Around the world, more than 8.6 million people celebrated GEW 2016 with events, workshops, keynote lectures and startup competitions.

 886k participants

In the United States alone, more than 886,000 people celebrated Global Entrepreneurship Week across the country, and in 16 featured cities.

## ONE WEEK

For one week each November, GEW hosts and partners mobilize entrepreneurs, investors and industry leaders to celebrate innovation.



formed under intense pressure.

There is a growing realization within the international community that one of the best ways to address the refugee crisis, short of some political or military resolution, is through developmental approaches that empower refugees to provide for their own livelihoods and contribute economically to host communities. This requires harnessing the latent ingenuity of the Syrian people as a source of innovation. It is happening, but there is so much more to be done.

Among the thousands of existing Syrian businesses operating in the informal sector in Turkey, SEF is leading a new initiative to bring them into the formal economy, which is being met with great demand. By raising awareness of legal requirements, making the business case for registration and facilitating the process, SEF is ameliorating a significant barrier to entry and stimulating growth in the local economy. It's a formula that has great potential for application in other communities affected by the refugee crisis.

Syrians are used to working under conditions of hardship. As the subject of various international sanctions over the course of several decades, the Syrian business community has proven incredibly resilient.

An example of this is when the Center for International Private Enterprise (CIPE) and SEF developed a course that combines entrepreneurship with civics 101. Taught by Syrian university professors, the course has inspired thousands of young people to develop enterprise solutions to the challenges in their communities.

Around half the courses were held in Kilis, Turkey, and the other half inside Syria in Aleppo and Idlib. The University of Aleppo has now adopted this as part of its first year curriculum and is teaching it to students in campuses operating in the Aleppo countryside.

We are now also taking the course online to reach young Syrians wherever they are. CIPE and SEF are adapting and expanding the course for online instruction via a new e-learning platform called Ta'alum ("Learning"). Meanwhile, organizations like the Dutch NGO SPARK are leading the charge when it comes to expanding Syrian access to higher education.

SEF also created opportunity for Syrian investment in the Gaziantep, Turkey Free Economic Zone and secured the necessary approvals from Turkish authorities. From potato chip flavoring to PVC pipes, Syrian factories are now churning out their products there and putting young Syrians and Turks to work.

Last November SEF hosted the first-ever Global Entrepreneurship Week-Syria, with a celebration of civic education and the young leaders who represent Syria's future. This November 18, SEF will be hosting GEW in Gaziantep to showcase the work being done to encourage business formality among Syrian entrepreneurs in Turkey. At a time of mounting global pressures over the refugee crisis and with Syria's future in the balance, there couldn't be a better time to celebrate GEW.

— *By Stephen Rosenlund, senior program officer at the Center for International Private Enterprise, and Ayman Tabbaa, a founding member and chairman of the Syrian Economic Forum.*

## ***These Midwest Towns are Starting to Rival Silicon Valley***

The frustrations evident in the 2016 presidential campaign season were largely fueled by an economy that is leaving too many Americans without employment or sufficient income. And the election was sadly short on real solutions. So what can we do about that?

The only way to address those frustrations on a large enough scale is through an approach that can literally reach every community in the nation. Fortunately, a grassroots movement is sweeping the country that can do just that — transform how Americans grow our local economies through building robust entrepreneurial ecosystems. With Global Entrepreneurship Week approaching, I'm embarking on a four-state Midwest road tour Friday to better understand the opportunities and potential.

I'm teaming up with Phil Wickham, executive chairman of the venture program, Kauffman Fellows, and a legendary figure in start-up investing from Silicon Valley. Together we will spend a week driving from Kansas City to Omaha, Cedar Rapids, Peoria and St. Louis. We want to see what's happening on the ground. We want to talk with real people who are making things happen. We will talk with key players in each city's entrepreneurial community — or ecosystems — and learn more about their challenges and what they're doing to overcome them.

There is a grassroots movement happening to build these ecosystems of entrepreneurial innovation. The beauty of this movement is that every community in the nation already has the required ingredients — either on their own or in combination with others. Those communities can be small towns or

neighborhoods, or even broad cities.

Innovation ecosystems are traditionally associated with high-tech communities on the East and West coasts — from Silicon Valley to Seattle; Boston to Washington, D.C. But the potential is everywhere. The Midwest is especially well-suited because of its extraordinary natural resources, manufacturing history, engineering talent and expertise, lower cost of living, and the community-minded spirit that is already pervasive.

The key to strong entrepreneurial ecosystems is not just technology, research institutions, or capital. Instead, it's the willingness of communities to create their own entrepreneurial cultures by connecting existing ingredients to form environments that spawn businesses in new and unexpected ways. These ecosystems start with local ingredients: talent, history, heritage, and custom, as well as local institutions. But what makes each ecosystem unique is the environment and the way the ingredients are mixed.

In an ecosystem, the mixing must be organic rather than planned. Ecosystems bring together people with a shared commitment to see what emerges. That's why diversity is so important, because it enables a combining of skills, backgrounds, experiences and creativity that would not have happened otherwise.

— *By Victor Hwang, special to CNBC.com. Mr. Hwang is vice president of entrepreneurship at the Ewing Marion Kauffman Foundation.*

# CONNECT

BRIDGING THE GAP FROM KNOWLEDGE TO DELIVERY



While the interest in advancing entrepreneurship continues to gain momentum, there is plenty of room for greater collaboration among the various groups that make up entrepreneurial ecosystems. Connections help break down siloes, whether within one part of the ecosystem – such as federations of business angel networks collaborating with crowdfunding sites and other sources of early-stage capital – or between investors, founders, existing industry captains or customers.

Through numerous live events and its virtual platform, GEN connects entrepreneurs, investors, policymakers, researchers, startup community leaders and others across the globe.

## Global Entrepreneurship Congress

### **2016 GEC Held in Medellin, Colombia**

From more than 160 nations across the globe, entrepreneurs, researchers, investors and policymakers gathered in the City of Eternal Spring – where the weather is warm and spring-like year round, and the city's entrepreneurial spirit is alive and flourishing – to celebrate the city's innovative progress and continue laying bricks on the path to building one global entrepreneurial ecosystem.

In its eighth year, nearly 4,000 delegates converged on the thriving startup city hub, exploring innovative approaches to helping entrepreneurs start and scale new businesses. The four-day Congress, co-hosted by Global Entrepreneurship Network (GEN), Ewing Marion Kauffman Foundation, National Business Association of Colombia (ANDI), and the City of Medellin mayor's office, continues to expand as it more deeply engages all elements of the ecosystem.

During the Congress, co-host ANDI, the mayor's office, and other local entrepreneurial leaders made in-roads

to establish GEN Colombia in the country, pledging to continue promoting the development of young businesses in the country, and to take Colombian entrepreneurship to a global level. The country network will support Colombian entrepreneurs, foster entrepreneurship research and encourage public policy discussions.

“Having this network in the country is excellent news as we connect more with entrepreneurs around the world,” said Bruce Mac Master, president of ANDI. “In this way, we learn about and implement best practices for the development of business initiatives, and have the foundation to be successful and build the economy and industries of the future.”

As Colombia began a new venture in establishing the GEN affiliate, world government leaders in entrepreneurship and

The global discussion continued through 2017 GEC in Johannesburg, South Africa, after GEN President Jonathan Ortman and Contreras-Sweet signed an agreement to continue the work of the annual gathering.

Other highlights of the four-day Congress included international pitch competition finals, entrepreneurship workshops and high-impact sessions that covered a variety of topics, including: mapping and measuring entrepreneurship ecosystems; stabilizing and strengthening post-conflict economies; creating an entrepreneurial mindset and culture; enhancing early stage investment; catalyzing startup communities; and disrupting traditional industries.

### ***Istanbul Announced For GEC 2018***

GEN announced during Global Entrepreneurship Week 2016 that Istanbul will host the Global Entrepreneurship Congress April 16-19, 2018. It will be the

GEC Medellin celebrated the city's innovative progress, and continued to lay bricks on the path to building one global entrepreneurial ecosystem.

small businesses gathered at the Congress for the second GEC Ministerial. Led by Maria Contreras-Sweet, administrator of the U.S. Small Business Administration, ministers from more than 15 countries participated in a dialogue to share best practices, find collaborative solutions, and set a global agenda for promoting entrepreneurship worldwide.

“In the same way that defense ministers meet to discuss security issues, that trade ministers define treaties, we are here to integrate a working agenda that allows us access to markets, to give us knowledge on best practices globally,” said Contreras-Sweet during the opening remarks of the Ministerial.

10th consecutive year that the event brings together thousands of entrepreneurs, investors, researchers, policymakers and other startup support champions from more than 160 countries.

“The globalization of entrepreneurship is a powerful force that is positively impacting communities, cities and countries around the world,” said Jonathan Ortman, president of the Global Entrepreneurship Network. “Istanbul will provide an important backdrop for startup champions everywhere to come together in building one global entrepreneurial ecosystem.”

The bid was secured by a coalition of organizations that help founders start and scale new businesses in Turkey: Endeavor

Turkey, The Union of Chambers and Commodity Exchanges of Turkey (TOBB), Habitat, Turkish Exporters Assembly (TIM).

Ali Sabanci, chairman of TOBB Young Entrepreneurs Council and founder of Pegasus Airlines, outlined the coalition's hopes in bringing the GEC to Turkey.

"Our main vision is to make Istanbul a hub for entrepreneurship," said Sabanci. "Entrepreneurs are the greatest strength in Turkey's development but they cannot do it alone – we must all join forces to help them. There is a saying, 'If you want to go fast go alone, if you want to go far, go together.'"

The Global Entrepreneurship Congress has previously been held in the Kansas City (2009), Dubai (2010), Shanghai (2011), Liverpool (2012), Rio de Janeiro (2013), Moscow (2014), Milan (2015) and Medellin (2016).

In March 2017, Johannesburg, South Africa, will be the ninth city – and the first on the African continent – to host the event. Members of the Istanbul organizing committee will be present in Johannesburg to participate fully and to accept the transition.

## Startup Nations Summit

### ***SNS 2016 Held in Cork, Ireland***

For the fifth year, the Startup Nations Summit gathered together a network of startup community leaders and policymakers from around the world to help better enable high-impact entrepreneurship, especially through the identification of policy levers and smart public sector driven programs.

The 2016 Startup Nations Summit was held in Cork, Ireland, in partnership with Cork Innovates, to hold the summit for the first time in Europe. Past Startup Nations

Summit cities include Toronto (2012), Kuala Lumpur (2013), Seoul (2014) and Monterrey (2015).

At the Startup Nations Summit, GEN honored four individuals for their leadership in implementing innovative public policies and programs to help entrepreneurs start and scale new businesses in their countries and around the world.

The winners were: Dr. Hugo Kantis of Argentina for the Statup Nations Award for Groundbreaking Policy Thinking; María José Vengoechea of Colombia for the Startup Nations Award for Local Policy Leadership; Pichet Durongkavoroj of Thailand for the Startup Nations Award for National Policy Leadership; and Maria Contreras-Sweet of the United States for the Startup Nations Award for Global Policy Leadership.

"As governments become more sophisticated in engaging with startup communities, the work being done by these leaders serve as examples on how to build and strengthen entrepreneurial ecosystems everywhere," said Jonathan Ortmans, president of the Global Entrepreneurship Network.

Leaders from more than 70 different countries attended the Summit, exploring regulatory changes and policy ideas to help enable high impact entrepreneurship and stimulate entrepreneurial growth around the world. Waterford Crystal sponsored the awards presented to the Startup Nations Awards winners.

### ***The SNS 2017 Heads to Estonia***

During the Startup Nations Summit in Cork, Ireland, GEN announced that the Estonian Ministry of Economic Affairs and Communications and Startup Estonia were selected to host the Summit in 2017.

The Summit, which marks the official end of Global Entrepreneurship Week each



November, will continue to explore the rapidly growing European startup hubs, and will be held after GEW and as a strong introduction to European SME Week.

The key aim of the Summit in 2017 is to explore how digital disruption is changing the world. It is both startups as well as policymakers that must take advantage of digital technologies and make a difference.

“Estonia is among the most forward-thinking governments in the world and we are happy to share our experiences in digital governance,” said Liisa Oviir, Minister for Entrepreneurship. “We are ready to immerse all policymakers in how digital technologies have made a huge difference for entrepreneurs in Estonia. We call startups to expect more from their governments, so they can start and scale faster.”

Startup Estonia is a governmental initiative for developing the Estonian startup ecosystem. As a proud member of Startup Nations, Startup Estonia invites all parties to use the opportunity given by the Summit.

The Summit is an entrepreneurial highlight during the Estonian Presidency of the EU Council, bringing together policymakers

and entrepreneurs into a single eventful conference. Policy-wise, the Summit in 2017 is organised by the Ministry of Economic Affairs and Communications and GEN, along with the European Commission and Dell as partners. Startup Estonia and EIT Digital will be co-organisers to offer great value to startups.

## GEC+

### **First GEC+ Held in Daegu, South Korea, Next Stop is Cape Town**

The growth of GEN’s annual Global Entrepreneurship Congress over the past 10 years has created a demand for smaller, follow-on events around the world. GEC+ events, which were developed in 2016 to fill that demand, gathered experts from around the world for deep-dive conversations into specific regions or issues.

In 2016, thought leaders and policymakers met in Daegu, South Korea, to discuss entrepreneurship education and mindset. Through the event, not only was the importance of entrepreneurial skills in education curricula explored, but it also helped launch the entrepreneurial mindset study, featured in the Global Entrepreneurship Congress in

Johannesburg, and the subsequent GEC+ Cape Town.

## Global Entrepreneurship Summit

### **Silicon Valley Hosts Global Entrepreneurship Summit**

While the Global Entrepreneurship Network focuses on helping entrepreneurs and ecosystems in 165 countries, all eyes were on Silicon Valley in the summer of 2016 when more than 1,000 entrepreneurs and investors gathered at Stanford University for the seventh annual Global Entrepreneurship Summit.

GEN was once again front-and-center, coordinating the private sector engagement in the summit with support from leading partners including the Kauffman Foundation, Google, Dell, Skoll Foundation and many others.

Mark Zuckerberg of Facebook and other founders from major startup success stories like Uber, Airbnb, LinkedIn and others were on hand to share their experiences on the global stage.

“To me entrepreneurship is about creating change, not creating companies,” Zuckerberg said.

GEN kicked off the summit with the GES+ Emerging Youth and Women event where more than 150 entrepreneurs, representing 70 different countries, learned a bit about creating that change – sharpening their pitch skills, attending masterclasses and networking with global investors.

The discussion focused on both the challenges and positives of being an entrepreneur and creating a new business, and covered the changing, yet still difficult environment for women in entrepreneurship.

Several highlights from the summit include:

### **A-List Entrepreneurs Take GES Main Stage**

Facebook CEO Mark Zuckerberg opened the final day of the summit with an impressive collection of speakers including Steve Case, co-founder of AOL, Sundar Pichai, CEO of Google, Travis Kalanick, CEO of Uber Technologies; Brian Chesky, founder and CEO of Airbnb and others.

### **Kauffman Ecosystem Hackathon**

The Ewing Marion Kauffman Foundation and 8works Consulting led a design thinking session exemplifying how startup ecosystems are being built around the world. Led by Victor Hwang and Larry Jacob of the Kauffman Foundation and Todd Johnston of 8works, the session harvested ideas, stories and solutions to challenges of culture, connectivity, top-down enablement and the measurement of startup ecosystems.

### **Master Class on Education Technology**

Wendy Guillies, president and CEO of the Kauffman Foundation led a masterclass and panel discussion on how the education industry is rapidly expanding and evolving, from what students learn in the classroom to how they learn. The session featured discussion on trends in the EdTech space with Daphne Koller, co-founder of Coursera, a company offering massive open online courses and Tariq Fancy, co-founder of Rumie, a social venture that focuses on free digital education that was a winner in GEN's 2014 Startup Open.

### **Dell Policy Hack, powered by the Kauffman Foundation**

Dell and the Kaufmann Foundation created an interactive policy hackathon that tasked teams of entrepreneurs, venture capitalists, youth and policy experts to design solutions to pressing global policy challenges faced by entrepreneurs. Five teams pitched their ideas to a panel of experts.



# UNDERSTAND

FROM RESEARCH TO POLICY



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Parallel to the increasing amount of data that demonstrates the powerful impact of new and young firms on entrepreneurial growth, there is increasing demand from countries for experts who can provide solid, evidence-based counsel in terms of policies and programs that accelerate that growth. The problem is there are still more questions than answers, leaving much for us to better understand.

Through the Global Entrepreneurship Research Network and Startup Nations, GEN is helping increase the quality and quantity of research available to policymakers and startup community leaders to help identify best-in-class programs and policies that help entrepreneurs launch and grow new firms.

## Startup Nations

### **GEN Launches New Policy Portal**

The Global Entrepreneurship Network launched its latest platform initiative, the Startup Nations Atlas of Policies (SNAP), an easy to navigate database of policies and programs the public sector is testing around the world.

SNAP provides policymakers and advisers a tool to tap on the collective knowledge of the GEN network to shape their efforts to help entrepreneurs start and scale. The effort is made possible by the Kauffman Foundation, and the information crowdsourced from SNAP contributors reflects intellectual input from the World Bank.

“SNAP documents policies and programs via a globally-shared portal to accelerate the growth of any entrepreneurship ecosystem,” said Jonathan Ortman, president of the Global Entrepreneurship Network. “At the same time, SNAP channels the voice of the entrepreneur, the investor, and other startup champions who wish to propose new policy approaches to policymakers via SNAP. In this way, GEN

advances its mission to build one global ecosystem.”

The SNAP online platform allows anyone to easily search and filter policies via a variety of criteria, such as the target firms (e.g startups, scale-ups, SMEs, large companies) or policy areas (e.g. access to capital, fiscal policy, education).

SNAP was formally launched at the fifth edition of the Startup Nations Summit in Cork, Ireland, as part of the official closing of Global Entrepreneurship Week. The policy portal is an initiative of GEN's Startup Nations network of startup policymakers representing more than 60 countries, who want to help communities, cities and countries around the world capitalize on existing knowledge and current policy experimentation. SNAP was also presented at a conference in Bratislava, Slovakia.

Currently, there are more than 30 SNAP

## Global Entrepreneurship Research Network

### ***GERN Collaborates on Four Projects***

GERN is a collaboration among the leading organizations that fund, conduct and apply entrepreneurship research. By aligning and catalyzing more robust evidence and research integrally linked with the practice of entrepreneurship, it contributes to the sustainable growth of entrepreneurial ecosystems.

To inform smarter policies and programs that advance entrepreneurial activity and new firm formation, GERN has aligned research agendas and investments among its members and fostered research and data collaboration across national borders. It has also defined a set of unanswered questions and inspired clusters of institutions and funders to pursue them. By organizing crowdsourcing sessions among entrepreneurs and entrepreneur

The Startup Nations Atlas of Policies is an easy to navigate database of policies and programs the public sector is testing around the world.

submissions – ranging from startup visa programs that encourage foreign-founded startups to start or scale their business in-country, to creating policy that provides and clarity and incentives to launch a startup. GEN will continue to crowdsource SNAP entries.

GEN hopes that through this compendium, nations can more easily and more effectively design and implemented public sector policy that encourages new firm formation and economic growth. Learn more about SNAP and how to submit a policy entry.

support program leaders, it has identified priority research questions in three broad fields of inquiry: education, cross border programming, and the role of government in facilitating entrepreneurship.

GERN engaged its members, and practitioners within the wider entrepreneur support community, through regular meetings, including its Annual Meeting during the GEC, and monthly conference calls featuring leaders from academia, foundations, research institutes, and NGOs and corporations. Industry leaders have included Robin Chase, the founder of Zipcar, and Jarmo Esklinen, the Chief Innovation and Technology Officer at Future Cities Catapult.



As a result of these activities, GERN has fostered a number of international entrepreneurship studies and mobilized multiple implementers. These are:

- A pioneering entrepreneurial mindset study, currently in the pilot phase, led by GERN, the Allan Gray Orbis Foundation and MindCette. The project serves the entrepreneurship community by building a universal understanding of entrepreneurial mindset, introducing a data-based system for assessing entrepreneurial mindset development, creating an objective, quantifiable methodology for measuring progress over time, and providing an evidence-based framework for developing new policies and programs.
- An ecosystem connections mapping project, led by Endeavor, MaRS, Nesta, and the World Bank, that is being conducted in more than 25 global cities currently. Each new mapped city advances GERN's objective of building the largest and best-maintained comparable database of the connections among entrepreneurs and other key ecosystem actors within entrepreneurial ecosystems around the world.
- A global study to gain a better understanding of the impact that startup accelerators are having on new firm formation and success. The Global Accelerator Learning Initiative (GALI), a collaboration discussed during the first GERN Annual Meeting, collects and analyzes data on early-stage support programs is led by the Aspen Network of Development Entrepreneurs (ANDE), the Argidius Foundation, Emory University, the Omidyar Network, and the United States Agency for International Development (USAID). In addition, the Kauffman Foundation, Banamex and Stitching DOEN have provided complementary support to the initiative.
- A project that identifies the best entrepreneurship data for governments to collect, what indicators to track,

and what successful models currently exist. In collaboration with GERN, the Government Data Infrastructure Project, led by the Kauffman Foundation, the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD), and the United Nations are assessing the current state of the field, examining the best way to measure the impact of entrepreneurship policy and programs, and then, tying the two parts together, developing a set of recommendations for policymakers who are establishing entrepreneurship datasets.

In 2017, GERN will continue to advance the frontier of entrepreneurship research. It is currently forging a collaborative project to study the intersection of digitalization and urbanization led by 1776, a Washington, DC-based co-working space, Future Cities Catapult and the World Bank Group. GERN is also supporting the World Bank's Flagship Study of high-growth firms in emerging economies and is defining a potentially groundbreaking study of entrepreneurial dynamics by combining mapping and accelerator datasets. With these efforts, GERN is helping to create a world in which entrepreneurial impact is as widely distributed as entrepreneurial potential.

## 2017 Global Entrepreneurship Index

### ***GEI Measures Startup Hotspots and Digital Ecosystems***

The 2017 Global Entrepreneurship Index (GEI) provides key information for policymakers and government leaders worldwide to strengthen their digital ecosystems and promote high-growth, high-impact entrepreneurship. The authors estimate that improving conditions to help entrepreneurs create new companies could add \$22 trillion to the global economy.

“China and India are strengthening their entrepreneurial ecosystems and creating billion dollar startups while Malaysia, Iceland and the Baltic states are emerging as digital entrepreneurship leaders,” said Zoltan Acs, co-author of the report and university professor at the Schar School of Policy and Government at George Mason University. “While institutional variables still need to be strengthened in emerging economies—where individuals are running ahead of policymakers—in developed countries individuals need to be shaken up.”

The top of the rankings were dominated by countries in the innovation-driven stage of development. The United States topped the rankings again this year, with a GEI score of 83.4 – a slight drop from its score of 86.2 the previous year. It was followed by (in order): Switzerland (78.0), Canada (75.6), Sweden (75.5), Denmark (74.1), Iceland (73.5), Australia (72.5), the United Kingdom (71.3), Ireland (71.0) and Netherlands (67.8).

India (25.8) enjoyed the largest jump in the rankings, moving up 29 spots from last year to land in 69th. Tunisia (40.5) had the second largest jump, from 62nd to 42nd. China (36.3) moved up 12 spots to 48th.

The GEI measures a country's entrepreneurial ecosystem by combining individual data such as opportunity recognition, startup skills and risk acceptance, with institutional measures, including urbanization, education and economic freedom. These measurements help distinguish self-employment and replicative entrepreneurship from the innovative, productive and rapidly growing entrepreneurial ventures that drive real economic growth.

This year, it included four new components

of the digital entrepreneurship ecosystem: Digital Citizenship, Digital Governance, Digital Marketplace and Digital Business.

The report was released by GEN and the GEDI Institute so that findings from the Index were available to drive policy discussions at events around the world during Global Entrepreneurship Week.

### Ministerial Discussions

#### ***GEC, SNS Ministerial Discussions Focus on Creating Jobs, Collaboration***

For the second year, the GEC featured a Ministerial session, organized in collaboration with the U.S. government. Officials from 13 countries from Europe, Central America, South America and the Asia-Pacific region, spent a full day exchanging knowledge on emerging government practices with a focus on supporting startups through the growth cycle. This year's dialogue was focused on four key pillars: creating jobs, building international collaboration, facilitating trade and promoting gender equality.

Former SBA Administrator Maria Contreras-Sweet led the Ministerial which was opened by Cecilia Correa Alvarez, Minister of Industry, Trade and Tourism of Colombia, who began the GEC Ministerial saying that peace will generate opportunities for young people, entrepreneurs and SMEs -- and how the government of President Juan Manuel Santos had been strengthened with the creation of Innpulsa and increased activities undertaken by SENA.

At the GEC Ministerial, Contreras-Sweet and GEN President Jonathan Ortmans signed a memorandum of understanding to continue to the work of the Ministerial for the next three years — ensuring the important conversation of how government can help break barriers and encourage new firm formation will continue for years to come.

That conversation expanded to the Startup Nations Summit in Cork, Ireland, where many ministry-level officials and policy thought leaders met to discuss and decide the agenda for the 2017 discussion in Johannesburg, South Africa.

GEN signed a three-year agreement with the U.S. government to convene a ministerial as part of the Global Entrepreneurship Congress each spring.



# SUPPORT

FROM COMPETITIONS TO MEET-UPS AND MENTORSHIP PROGRAMS



The public tends to have a perception of the lone-wolf entrepreneur – the single genius that is solely responsible for startup success. However, there is overwhelming evidence that dispels that myth and points out the importance of founder teams and support networks to entrepreneurial success.

Through efforts such as the Global Business Angels Network, Global Enterprise Registration, Startup Huddle, GEN Starters Club, Startup Experience, various startup competitions including Startup Open, and other programs, GEN offers programs and resources intended to help smooth the path to market for founder teams and provide entrepreneurs at all stages with the support necessary to reach the next level.

## Global Enterprise Registration

### **GER.co Expands Reach**

The Global Enterprise Registration platform -- supported by the Global Entrepreneurship Network, UNCTAD and the U.S. Department of State -- has increased global participation and commitment to taking business registration online, and making the process more clear for entrepreneurs to complete.

Last year, GER launched a four-year campaign to “Go Green by 2019,” a call to action for governments everywhere to make their business registration process clear and simple by 2019 — facilitating economic growth and good governance globally.

Since the platform’s inception in 2014, GER has expanded in the last two years from 100 countries registered to nearly the whole world, supporting research and a sub-platform encouraging schools to teach information on the business process. In June of 2016, GER was institutionalized as a private-public sector partnership among UNCTAD, GEN and the U.S. Department of State.

The GER.co platform has begun seeking ways to expand its reach -- improving the website and encouragement of governments to become more transparent and share information.

## Startup Huddle

### **GEN Launches Startup Huddle to Support Local Entrepreneurs**

This past year, GEN launched Startup Huddle — a program designed to educate, engage and connect entrepreneurs — helping entrepreneurs discover solutions to the challenges they face through purposeful engagement with one another.

In 2016, Startup Huddle was piloted in Amman, Jordan; Tbilisi, Georgia; Chisinau, Moldova; and Blantyre and Lilongwe, Malawi.

Startup Huddle was piloted in five cities — Amman, Jordan; Blantyre, Malawi; Lilongwe, Malawi; Tbilisi, Georgia; and Chisinau, Moldova.

Through Startup Huddle, entrepreneurs are able to receive one-on-one advice, feedback from fellow entrepreneurs and share the challenges and solutions unique to each community and entrepreneurial ecosystem. Startup Huddle is a model that helps one entrepreneur at a time, while strengthening communities around them.

## Global Business Angels Network

### **GBAN Focuses on Cross-Border Investing**

The Global Business Angels Network (GBAN) held its annual meeting in Medellin, Colombia at the Global Entrepreneurship Congress. There, GBAN members discussed their goals for 2016 and beyond,

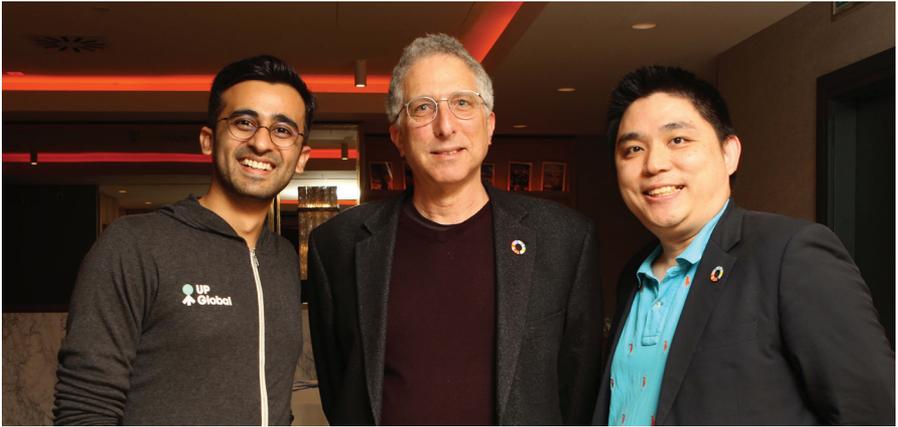
as well as the intention to gather additional member organizations, especially from nascent and emerging markets.

Since GBAN was launched in March 2015 at the GEC in Milan, it has grown from five founding members to 76 members from 53 different countries. These members interface year-round with the entrepreneurs, policymakers, other early-stage finance actors and leading entrepreneurial support programs that are a valued part of GEN.

For example, in August of 2016, the South African Business Angels Network (SABAN) was launched in Johannesburg, a non-profit association aimed at catalyzing the South African angel community. Following the launch of the African Business Angels Network (ABAN) in 2015, SABAN entered just in time to aid GBAN and GEN in creating a valuable investor program for

the 2017 GEC in Johannesburg. SABAN joined the influx of new members added to GBAN in 2016 and has already proven their commitment to collaboration with other ecosystem actors within and beyond their borders.

In October, GBAN launched the first in a series of field reports, an ongoing, members-only call series on topics related to angel investing from a global perspective. The first of these was led by Candace Johnson, co-chair of GBAN and president of the European Business Angels Network (EBAN) on the subject of cross-border Investing. This call brought GBAN members together to discuss the rise of regional angel associations around the world that encourage cross-border



collaboration, as well as best practices for investing outside of one's own country. GBAN is continuing this series in order to expose members to the latest ideas and practices associated with global angel investing.

GBAN is capitalizing on its momentum to increase collaboration between early-stage investors across borders, as well as with other actors in their local ecosystem. This work is made possible through an outstanding board that includes John May, Candace Johnson, Claire Munck and Padmaja Rapurel.

### Startup Open

#### ***BrighTap, a Smart Water Meter Sensor, Wins First Place in Startup Open***

BrighTap, a smart water meter sensor that monitors water quality and consumption, took first place in the 2016 Startup Open – defeating more than 1,000 startups from 101 different countries.

Through the Startup Open competition, the Global Entrepreneurship Network (GEN) recognizes the top promising young firms that have yet to raise any outside capital from angel investors, venture capital firms or other formal sources of seed funding.

BrighTap, a product made by Israeli company BwareIT, is an Internet-of-things (IOT) meter that can be attached to any standard water tap, pipe or hose and helps users enjoy cleaner water while reducing their water bills. The tap meter provides water quality information, and tells the user how much water is consumed – powering itself by the water that runs through it. The product's display shows real-time data and also stores it for tracking through a monitoring system.

“As digital advances disrupt traditional industries across all sectors – and throughout different countries and economies – entrepreneurs are at the forefront of these changes, working to solve critical problems,” said Jonathan Ortman, president of Global Entrepreneurship Network. “BrighTap is an excellent example of how a young firm has the potential to make a lasting impact on the world around them.”

BwareIT was co-founded by company CEO Konstantin Berezin, who has a background in consumer electronics and environment solutions experience, along with Ariel Drach, the chief technology officer, and Alex Sudak, the chief operations officer.

As the first place winner of the Startup Open competition, one person from the startup's founder team will receive free airfare and accommodations to the Global Entrepreneurship Congress in Johannesburg, South Africa, March 13-16. BrightTap was also featured by CNBC as one of "10 of the World's Hottest Startups of 2016," along with fellow Startup Open finalists.

BrightTap and the other finalists automatically gained membership in

## Startup Compete

### **Startup Compete Expands Reach in 2016**

The Global Entrepreneurship Network's competition management platform Startup Compete helps simplify and streamline the way leaders organize startup competitions, and has expanded its reach in the past year.

In 2016, Startup Compete experienced growth in numerous ways. It has helped

**"A wave of uncertainty and rapid change is sweeping across the globe evidenced in both our elections and the disruption of traditional industries."**

*- Jonathan Ortman  
President, Global Entrepreneurship Network*

the GEN Starters Club, a community of talented founders with access to GEN mentors among its network in 165 countries, enhanced exposure and curated networking opportunities at special events around the world.

Other finalists included: Boltt Sports Technologies (India), Cookies and Cookies (Colombia), Freshy (Malta), Karz (Israel), Marini Naturals (Kenya), meetHere (USA), OneTest Diagnostics (UK), OpenWater (India) and QEYE (Egypt).

GEN announced the top 10 Startup Open finalists during Global Entrepreneurship Week this November. Now in its seventh year, Startup Open is a global competition that is open to entrepreneurs from any industry with a new business that has yet to raise any outside capital from angel investors, venture capital firms or other formal sources of seed funding.

simplify 71 startup competitions, which was a 27 percent increase and received more than 11,000 applicants, with it's largest competition handling close to 8,000 applicants, and another handling a little more than 1,000 judges.

Since 2007, Startup Compete has provided the means for any startup competition, big or small, to effectively manage the applicant and judge relationships. In 2017, it will continue to expand beyond borders to assist even more organizers than ever before.

## Startup Experience

### **Fashion Meets Startup Experience with Rebecca Minkoff**

Intel, Rebecca Minkoff and Startup Experience teamed up in 2016 to bring innovation to fashion.

As a major player in the fashion industry, Rebecca Minkoff has attributed much

of her success to leveraging technology. Understanding her market through tech, a rather revolutionary goal when she first started, allowed her to understand her female demographic in a very real way.

However, Minkoff ran into a serious roadblock to when the team responsible for building her new tech was out of touch with those same women. Without women engineers, she would continue to miss the mark of advancing her business. The solution? Hire women in a STEM field (science, technology, engineering and math). The problem? Only 24 percent of STEM workers are women.

This revelation led to a partnership with Intel, and the Design Ideation Camp was created. Startup Experience was asked to develop this one-day Design Ideation Camp based on the well-proven Startup Experience model. As the main speaker and facilitator, I had the honor of coaching and instructing brilliant women as they turned big problems into ideas and those ideas into solutions.

Based on the Startup Experience, the 10 hour event was filled with collaboration, problem analysis, creative brainstorming, business model development, and was capped off by a pitch competition. While the winners received tablets, courtesy of

Intel, participants left the event inspired, challenged, and excited to solve more problems.

## GEN Starters Club

### **GEN Launches First Starters Club Cohort**

GEN has continued to refine its GEN Starters Club, a select community of promising new founders with priority access to insight and advice from GEN mentors, enhanced exposure, curated networking opportunities at special events around the world and the chance to be part of a like-minded community of passionate and promising entrepreneurs.

In 2016, GEN welcomed its first cohort of 15 founders with diverse backgrounds, from geographic location to industry. This diversity has brought new insights to help entrepreneurs as members of a global peer-to-peer network. GEN Starters Club offers mentors to the entrepreneurs to help provide industry and market expertise, as well as advice on common challenges.

With a year of learning from what works and what does not, GEN Starters Club is welcoming its second cohort in 2017 with more streamlined processes.



# GLOBAL PARTNERS

OUR FRIENDS FROM AROUND THE WORLD

GEN engages with a wide variety of partner organizations around the world that contribute considerable expertise, experience and energy through its various programs and events.

## PLATINUM

Ewing Marion

**KAUFFMAN**  
Foundation

## GOLD



SILVER



## BRONZE

1776

Aspen Network for Development  
Entrepreneurs  
Building Markets  
Center for International Private Enterprise  
CleanTech Open  
CNBC  
Creative Business Cup  
DECA  
Endeavor  
Endeavor Insight  
Future Agro Challenge  
The GEDI Institute  
Get in the Ring Foundation  
Jokkolabs  
Junior Achievement  
MaRS  
MindCette  
Nesta  
Network for Teaching Entrepreneurship  
OECD  
Startup Genome  
Techstars  
United Nations Conference on Trade and  
Development  
USAID  
Youth Business International





# 17,119 PARTNERS

GEN continues to integrate partner programs and initiatives into its year-long programming in order to better support entrepreneurship ecosystems around the world.

Through Global Entrepreneurship Week and other efforts, GEN is supported by a massive network of more than 17,000 partner organizations in 165+ countries.

# ONE TWEET AT A TIME

CHECKING THE ENTREPRENEURIAL PULSE THROUGH SOCIAL MEDIA

During GEW, participants, host countries, government officials and leading brands took to social media to celebrate entrepreneurs everywhere.



**Richard Branson**  
@richardbranson

Here's what I'll be up to for #GEW2016. What about you? <http://virg.in/PXTNR>



**Shell**  
@Shell

Celebrating the bright minds that bring bright energy ideas to life during #GEW2016 #makethefuture <http://go.shell.com/2eNilz3>



**Virgin**  
@Virgin

What do you know about entrepreneurship around the world? <http://virg.in/jo1QC> #GEW2016



**Bank of America News**  
@BofA\_News

Connecting small biz owners to capital through #CDFI loans helps business grow and economies thrive #GEW2016



See If You Qualify for a Loan  
[about.bankofamerica.com](http://about.bankofamerica.com)

# BUILDING A COMMUNITY

THROUGH SOCIAL MEDIA, GEN IS CREATING A CONNECTED ECOSYSTEM

From Twitter to Facebook, Global Entrepreneurship Week and the Global Entrepreneurship Congress are two entrepreneurial social movements each year.

During Global Entrepreneurship Week, the social media tag #GEW2016 became a trending topic on Twitter in South Africa during the official opening of GEW held in Johannesburg.

Entrepreneur Richard Branson supported GEW on social media, and his company, Virgin Group, released a series of posts about startups, business plans and entrepreneurship during the week. Both Virgin Group and Branson tweeted throughout the week, using the GEN compass logo and the GEW 2016 hashtag. Posts on the Virgin Group website included information about the top GEW events in the UK, Virgin Action Unite Network entrepreneurs and podcasts about entrepreneurs and startup issues.

U.S. Embassies and Ambassadors around the world — including international leader Canadian Prime Minister Justin Trudeau — and other top contributors to the social discussion included the British Library,

Peter Jones from the Dragon's Den, Deutsche Bank, Goldman Sachs, Barclays, Microsoft, Bank of America, and Shell.

GEN also utilized the analytics tracker Hashtracking to quantify the success of the GEW social movement on Twitter and Instagram. Instagram is still a new social platform for GEN, but reached an achievement by growing nearly 25 percent in followers from November 2016 to March 2017.

More than 19,000 people contributed to the #GEW2016 social discussion in November on Twitter alone, celebrating GEW events, activities and initiatives through more than 62,400 Tweets and Retweets.

The Global Entrepreneurship Network also sponsored its first Facebook Live event to discuss The GEN Facebook page also reached more than 173,000 "Likes" prior to the 2017 GEC in Johannesburg.



173,339  
Likes



25,395  
Followers



128,934  
Views



11,934  
Members





# OUR NETWORK

THE GLOBAL ENTREPRENEURSHIP  
NETWORK

# WHO WE ARE

GLOBAL STAFF + MEMBERS



## Global Staff

**Jonathan Ortmans** President

**Mark Marich** Executive Vice President

**Alan Simensky** Chief Financial Officer

**Büke Çuhadar** Vice President for Global Operations

**Cristina Fernandez** Vice President for Policy & Research

**Alana Ramo** Director for Strategic Partnerships

**Genesis Lodise** Director for Digital Media

**Peter Komives** Director for Network Integration

**Steven A. Rodriguez** Startup Communities Manager

**Jessica Wray** Marketing & Communications Manager

**William Charter** Project Manager

**Sarolta Borzasi** Policy Associate

During one week each November, thousands of events and competitions around the world inspire millions to engage in entrepreneurial activity while connecting them to potential collaborators, mentors and even investors. In eight years, Global Entrepreneurship Week has expanded to 165 countries – building and strengthening entrepreneurial ecosystems around the world. Powered by the Kauffman Foundation, the initiative is supported by dozens of world leaders and a network of more than 15,000 partner organizations.

## 2016 GEW HOST ORGANIZATIONS

Albania, Global Opportunities Albania  
Algeria, GEN Algeria  
Andorra, Coworking Andorra  
Angola, Touch & Talk  
Antigua, Gilbert Agriculture & Rural Development Center  
Argentina, Endeavor Argentina  
Aruba, Fundashon Negoshi Pikina  
Armenia, GEW Armenia  
Australia, The Enterprise Network for Young Australians  
Austria, Initiative for Teaching Entrepreneurship  
Azerbaijan, Debate in Civil Society  
Bahamas, Business Builders Immersion  
Bahrain, Tenmou - The Bahrain Business Angels Holding Company  
Bangladesh, Young Entrepreneur & Leaders League  
Barbados, Barbados Youth Business Trust  
Belarus, BELBIZ Center for Business Communications  
Belgium, GEN Belgium  
Belize, Institute of Sustainable Livelihoods Leadership and Exchange  
Benin, FORAM Initiatives  
Bermuda, Bermuda Economic Development Corporation  
Bhutan, The Loden Foundation  
Bolivia, Red Bolivia Emprendedora  
Bonaire, Fundashon Negoshi Pikina  
Bosnia and Herzegovina, Association for Promotion of Entrepreneurship START  
Botswana, Ngwana Enterprises  
Brazil, Endeavor Brasil  
Brunei, GEW Brunei Darussalam  
Bulgaria, Junior Achievement Bulgaria  
Burkina Faso, Association pour la Promotion, le Soutien et le Suivi de l'Investissement Privé  
Burundi, Youth Action for Development  
Cambodia, Young Entrepreneurs Association of Cambodia (YEAC) / GEW Cambodia  
Cameroon, Youth Business Cameroon  
Canada, Futurpreneur Canada  
Cape Verde, The Young Entrepreneurs Association of Cape Verde (AJEC) / GEW Cabo Verde  
Chad, Resau des Jeunes pour le Developpement et le Leadership au Chad  
Chile, Endeavor Chile  
China, Entrepreneurship Foundation for Graduates / GEW China  
Chinese Taipei, National Association of Young Entrepreneurs, R.O.C. Association  
Colombia, Endeavor Colombia  
Congo, Jokkolabs Congo  
Democratic Republic of Congo, "YES DRC – Les Jeunes Entrepreneurs"  
Costa Rica, Yo Emprendedor  
Côte d'Ivoire, Jokkolabs Côte d'Ivoire  
Croatia, Croatian Small Business Union  
Curaçao, Fundashon Negoshi Pikina  
Cyprus, Industry Disruptors - Game Changers / GEN Cyprus  
Czech Republic, European Leadership & Academic Institute v.o.s.  
Denmark, IVÆKST  
Dominica, Dominica Youth Business Trust  
Dominican Republic, EMPRENDE Incubadora de Negocios Tecnicos

Ecuador, Fundación Emprender  
 Egypt, Middle East Council for Small  
 Business and Entrepreneurship  
 El Salvador, Fundación Salvadoreña Para el  
 Desarrollo Económico y Social (FUSADES)  
 Ethiopia, Entrepreneurship Development  
 Center  
 France, Citizen Entrepreneurs  
 Gabon, Agir Pour Une Jeunesse Autonome  
 Gambia, American Chamber of Commerce,  
 Gambia  
 Georgia, Entrepreneurs Association  
 Germany, Bundesministerium für  
 Wirtschaft und Energie (BMWi), RKW  
 Kompetenzzentrum  
 Ghana, GEN Ghana  
 Greece, Industry Disruptors - Game  
 Changers & OESYNE - Federation of Hellenic  
 Associations of Young Entrepreneurs  
 Greenland, GEN Greenland  
 Grenada, Dynamic Youths of Grenada  
 Business Hub  
 Guatemala, Kirzner Entrepreneurship Center  
 Haiti, 11th Department  
 Honduras, Junior Achievement Honduras  
 Hungary, JEUNE  
 India, GEN India  
 Indonesia, Ciputra Foundation  
 Iraq, MyeDream  
 Iraq, The Kurdistan Economic Development  
 Organization  
 Ireland, GEN Ireland  
 Israel, GEN Israel  
 Italy, GEN Italy  
 Jamaica, Junior Achievement Jamaica  
 Japan, Impact Japan, Japan Innovation  
 Network  
 Jordan, Queen Rania Center for  
 Entrepreneurship (QRCE)  
 Kazakhstan, Young Entrepreneurs Club  
 MOST  
 Kenya, GEN Kenya  
 Kosovo, Innovation Center Kosovo  
 Kyrgyzstan, Central Asian Free Market  
 Institute, Public Foundation  
 Latvia, Entrepreneurship Support Centre  
 Lebanon, Entrepreneurship  
 Libya, National Board for Technical &  
 Vocational Education  
 Lithuania, ISM University of Management and  
 Economics  
 Luxembourg, GEN  
 Creco  
 Macedonia, Youth Entrepreneurial Service  
 Foundation  
 Madagascar, HABAKA Madagascar  
 Innovation HUB, GEN Madagascar  
 Malaysia, Startup Malaysia  
 Mali, Jokkolobs Mali  
 Malta, University of Malta  
 Mauritania, Startup Mauritania / GEN  
 Mauritania  
 Mauritius, Empretec Mauritius  
 Mexico, JA Mexico  
 Moldova, GEN Moldova  
 Monaco, Jeune Chambre Economique de  
 Monaco (JCI Monaco)  
 Mongolia, Startup Mongolia  
 Montenegro, Institute for Entrepreneurship  
 and Economic Development  
 Morocco, Startup Maroc  
 Mozambique, ideiaLab  
 Myanmar, GEN Myanmar  
 Namibia, GEN Namibia  
 Nepal, Samridhhi, The Prosperity  
 Foundation  
 Netherlands, GEN Netherlands  
 New Zealand, Startup New Zealand  
 Niger, ACCEntrepreneur  
 Nigeria, Entrepreneurship Development  
 Centre  
 Norway, GEN Norway  
 Oman, National Business Center  
 Pakistan, Alternate Solutions  
 Palestinian Territories, Palestine for a New  
 Beginning  
 Panama, Junior Achievement Panama  
 Paraguay, GEN Paraguay  
 Peru, Peru Emprende  
 Philippines, YES Philippines  
 Poland, GEN Poland Foundation  
 Portugal, GEN Portugal  
 Qatar, Qatar Development Bank

Republic of Korea, GEN Korea Romania,  
Junior Achievement Romania &  
GEA Strategy Consulting  
Russia, Center for Entrepreneurship  
Rwanda, idea4africa  
Saba, Fundashon Negoshi Pikina  
Saudi Arabia, Qotuf  
Senegal, JOKKOLABS Senegal  
Sierra Leone, Innovation Sierra Leone  
Singapore, ACE  
Sint Eustatius, Fundashon Negoshi Pikina  
Sint Maarten, Fundashon Negoshi Pikina  
Slovakia, Young Entrepreneurs Association  
of Slovakia  
Somalia, Shaqadoon  
South Africa, GEN South Africa  
Spain, GEW Spain / YBI Spain  
Sri Lanka, Young Entrepreneurs Sri Lanka  
St. Kitts & Nevis, Caribbean Centre of  
Excellence for Sustainable Livelihoods  
St. Lucia, St. Lucia Chamber of Commerce  
Industry and Agriculture  
St. Vincent and the Grenadines, Youth  
Business St. Vincent and the Grenadines  
Sudan, Innovation and Entrepreneurship  
Community  
Swaziland, Junior Achievement Swaziland  
Sweden, Entrepreneurship and Small  
Business Research Institute  
Switzerland, University of Geneva (Geneva  
Area), GEN Switzerland  
Syria, Syrian Economic Forum  
Tajikistan, AmCham Tajikistan  
Tanzania, Zanzibar Association for Youth  
Education and Empowerment  
Thailand, GEThai  
Togo, Initiatives des Jeunes pour le  
Développement (IJD)  
Trinidad and Tobago, Youth Business  
Trinidad and Tobago  
Tunisia, Institut Arabe des Chefs d'Enterprise  
Turkey, Endeavor Turkey / Habitat Turkey  
Uganda, Enterprise Uganda  
Ukraine, Startup Ukraine  
United Kingdom, Youth Business  
International

United States, Global Entrepreneurship  
Network  
Uruguay, Endeavor Uruguay  
Venezuela, Ecosistema Nacional de  
Emprendimiento EneVenezuela  
Vietnam, GEN Vietnam  
Yemen, Rowad Foundation  
Zambia, ELIF Business Solutions, Ltd.  
Zimbabwe, Empretec Zimbabwe

The Global Entrepreneurship Research Network is a working coalition of institutions funding research as a tool in realizing the full potential of entrepreneurship to create inclusive prosperity on a global scale. Its objectives are to develop a next generation of entrepreneurship research, share lessons and knowledge, and establish open, standardized data resources. Each member organization is a leader in its nation or region in promoting entrepreneurship.

#### **FUNDER MEMBERS**

Allan Gray Orbis Foundation  
Argidius Foundation  
Ciputra Foundation  
Kauffman Foundation  
Korea Entrepreneurship Foundation  
NESTA  
OECD  
Omidyar Foundation  
RKW Kompetenzzentrum  
UNCTAD  
USAID  
World Bank

#### **RESEARCH MEMBERS**

Arab Institute for Business Leaders  
Aspen Network of Development  
Entrepreneurs  
Bruegel  
Emory University  
Endeavor Insight  
The GEDI Institute  
MaRS  
PRODEM  
StartupGenome

#### **PROGRAM MEMBERS**

Center for International Private Enterprise  
Endeavor Brazil  
Future Cities Catapult UK  
Quatere (Foundry)

#### **COMMUNITY MEMBERS**

Academy of Entrepreneurship | Greece  
Africa Development Bank | Côte d'Ivoire  
Arab Academy for Science, Technology &  
Maritime Transport | Egypt  
Ashoka University | India  
Better Business Better Communities  
Research Inc. | USA  
Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation | USA  
Corporation for Enterprise Development |  
USA  
Danish Foundation for Entrepreneurship —  
Young Enterprise | Denmark  
Foundation for Youth Social  
Entrepreneurship | China  
Fundación IES | Mexico  
FUSADES | El Salvador  
German Startups Association | Germany  
Humboldt International University | USA  
Inter-American Development Bank | USA  
International Consulting Company, Ltd |  
Ukraine  
Invest2Innovate | Pakistan  
Iran Entrepreneurship Association | Iran  
Monterrey Institute of Technology and Higher  
Education (ITESM) | Mexico  
TechStars | USA  
Think Ireland, Inc. | Ireland  
Tony Elumelu Foundation | Nigeria  
Universum College | Kosovo  
VentureHive | USA

Global Business Angels Network interfaces with entrepreneurs, policymakers, early-stage finance actors and leading entrepreneurial support programs to strengthen the global entrepreneurial ecosystem. Whether helping recruit more investors, expanding geographic investment arenas beyond local markets or amplifying the angel “voice” to regulatory issue discussions, GBAN seeks to provide an inclusive, supportive community of early-stage investors around the world.

## **GBAN MEMBERS**

AIM Network  
African Business Angels Network  
Angel Resource Institute  
Angels Den Funding Ltd.  
Angelus Funding  
Associação Portuguesa de Business Angels  
BAN Vlaanderen  
Be Angels, Belgium  
Bolivian VC  
Boston Harbor Angels  
Business Angels Europe  
Business Angels Fund  
Chandigarth Angels Network  
ECS Capital Partners and Angels  
Entrepreneurial Culture Center  
European Business Angels Network  
Ewing Marion Kauffman Foundation  
Galata Business Angels  
Go Beyond  
Gruppo Professionale Bolognini  
HABAKA Innovation Hub  
Invest2Innovate  
London Business Angels  
Middle East Business Angels Network  
MIT Enterprise Forum of Israel  
Nordic Female Business Angels Network  
Pacific Channel Limited  
Réseau des Jeunes pour le Développement  
et le Leadership au Tchad  
Sino Global Capital  
South African Business Angels Network  
VA Angels  
Wild Blue Cohort  
VC4Afrika

## **NATIONAL LEADS**

Angel Association New Zealand Incorporated  
Angel Capital Association  
Angel Investors of Mauritius  
Angels Nest Mexico  
Austrian Angel Investors Association BAN  
Netherlands  
Belgian Association of Business Angel  
Networks (BeBAN)  
Business Angels Network Catalunya  
Business Angels Netzwerk Deutschland e.V.  
Business Angels Association Turkey (TBAA)  
Business Angels of Slovenia  
Business Angel Network Southeast Asia  
Business Angels Romania  
Club de Business Angels de los Antiguos  
Alumnos del IAE  
Connect Sweden  
Danish Business Angels (DanBan)  
EIC Corporation  
Emprende UP - UP4angels  
Enlaces, Inc  
Finland Business Angels Network (FiBAN)  
France Angels  
Halo Business Angel Network (HBAN)  
Hellenic Business Angel Network (HeBAN)  
IM Capital  
Italian Business Angels Network  
Lagos Angel Network  
Luxembourg Business Angels Network  
Malaysian Business Angel Network (MBAN)  
National Angel Capital Organisation  
National Business Angels Association  
(Russia)  
Negocios Digitales  
Platinum Foundation

Portuguese Business Angels Federation  
Red Nacional de Ángeles Inversionistas  
Serbian Business Angel Network (SBAN)  
Silicon Cape  
UK Business Angels Association  
WoMENA

Young Entrepreneurs Association  
China Business Angels Association  
Croatian Business Angels Network (CRANE)  
Cyprus Business Angels Network (CyBAN)  
Montenegro Business Angel Network  
ViKToria Solution Kenya

Startup Nations | [startupnations.co](http://startupnations.co)

Startup Nations is a collection of startup policymakers and program leaders from more than 80 countries on six continents – all focused on exploring different regulatory changes and policy levers to help accelerate new firm formation and unleash high impact entrepreneurship on their economies. It enables informal knowledge sharing among economies focused on leveraging entrepreneurs and their startups.

### **PUBLIC SECTOR MEMBERS**

Mariano Mayer, Ministry of Production of Argentina  
Ana Pires, Softex & Start-UP Brazil  
Rocio Fonseca, Start-Up Chile  
Mari Vavulski, Startup Estonia  
Mikk Vainik, Estonian Ministry of Economic Affairs & Communications  
Marisol Camacho, iNNpulsa Colombia  
Antonija Mrcic, Croatian Ministry for Entrepreneurship & Crafts  
Anders Hoffmann, Danish Business Authority  
Kasper Gregersen, Startup Denmark  
Jose Checo, Dominican Ministry of Industry & Commerce  
Ileana A. Rogel, National Commission for Micro & Small Enterprises  
Rasha ElTantawy, Information Technology Industry Development Agency (Egypt)  
Kristin Schreiber, European Commission  
Mariam Lashkhi, Georgia Innovation Technology Agency  
Ezra Orozco, Guatemalan Ministry of the Economy  
Mattia Corbetta, Italian Ministry of Economic Development  
Winston Wilkins, Startup Jamaica  
Rimante Ribaciauskaite, Startup Lithuania  
Itzel Villa, INADEM (Mexico)  
Henriette van Notten, Startup Delta

(The Netherlands)  
Leticia Romero, INNOVANDO PY (Paraguay)  
Renzo Reyes, Startup Peru  
Abdulmohsen Aleisa, BADIR (Saudi Arabia)  
Chaowalit Limmaneevichitr, Thai Ministry of Digital Economy & Society  
Maria Palmieri, Tech City UK  
Heather Stafford, Startup Oregon (USA)  
Do Xuan Anh, Vietnamese Ministry of Science & Technology  
Ekaterina Pankratova, the Skolkovo Foundation (Russia)

### **PRIVATE SECTOR, EXTERNAL POLICY ADVISORS**

Hayk Asriyants, Startup Armenia  
Bagrat Yengibaryan, Enterprise Incubator Foundation (Armenia)  
Alexander McCauley, StartupAUS (Australia)  
Minhaz Anwar, BetterStories (Bangladesh)  
Karen Boers, Startups.be  
Felipe Matos, Dinamo (Brazil)  
Victoria Lennox, Startup Canada  
Xavier Ordenana, ESPAE (Ecuador)  
Andres Zurita, AEI Entrepreneurship & Innovation Alliance (Ecuador)  
Lisa Shreier, German Startups Association  
Andreas Stefanidis, Academy of Entrepreneurship (Greece)  
Carla Tanas, Industry Disruptors-Game

Changers (Greece / Cyprus)  
Yatin Thakur, GEN India  
Ivan Sandjaja, GEN Indonesia  
Siobhan Finn, Cork Innovates Partnership  
(Ireland)  
Andrew Parish, Startup Ireland  
Thomas Cooney, Dublin Institute of  
Technology (Ireland)  
Mark Hugh Sam, Caribbean Business  
Enablers Network (Jamaica)  
Aziz Soltobaev, KG Labs (Kyrgyzstan)  
Jekaterina Zaiceva, Labs of Latvia  
Rebeca Hwang & Dash Dhakshinamoorthy,  
Startup Malaysia  
Redouane Dahmouni, Startup Maroc  
Marcus Dantus, Startup Mexico  
Jose Luis Andrade Rodriguez, IMAN  
(Mexico)  
Victor Moctezuma, iLab Mexico  
Amanda Jacobs, Village Capital Mexico  
Dave Moskovitz, GEN New Zealand  
Gary Urteaga, Cinepapaya (Peru)

Henry Ong, GEN Philippines  
Agata Kowalczyk, Startup Poland  
Serban Mogos, Akcees / Startmeup  
Romania  
Mmbodi Nesengani, Startup Nations South  
Africa  
Sonia Lee, Startup Korea  
Aleix Valls, Mobile World Capital Barcelona  
(Spain)  
David Kuo, GEN Taiwan  
Steve Cheah, GEN Thailand  
Ozan Acar, The Union of Chambers &  
Commodity Exchanges of Turkey  
Burak Buyukdemir, Etohum Investment Co. /  
Startup Turkey  
Matthew Smith, StartUp Britain (United  
Kingdom)  
Anna Petrova, GEN Ukraine  
Caleb Carr, Students for Intellectual Property  
(USA)  
Hai Nguyen, StartUp.vn (Vietnam)

## GEN Starters Club | [genstarters.co](http://genstarters.co)

GEN Starters Club is a global community made up of talented founders whose promising startups have been battle-tested through one or more of GEN's global startup competitions. It provides a global interface — reaching more than 160 countries — with fellow challenge winners, experienced entrepreneurs, startup champions and potential investors for support and continued growth. GEN Starters Club provides insight and advice from GEN Mentors, enhanced exposure, curated networking opportunities at special events around the world and the chance to be part of a like-minded community of passionate and promising entrepreneurs.

Desolenator, United Kingdom  
Societall, Morocco  
Caleche, United Kingdom  
Sustainable Alternative Lighting, Philippines  
Online Hisab, Ethiopia  
ShotTracker, United States  
Chura, Kenya  
Bloom, United States

Turbulent, Chile  
Blitab, Austria  
Semka Technologies, Mexico  
Hoplapp, India  
Viroment, United States  
Breezometer, Israel  
OptiMiam, France

### Startup Huddle | [startuphuddle.co](http://startuphuddle.co)

Startup Huddle is a program designed to educate, engage, and connect entrepreneurs. It is based on the notion that the best way for entrepreneurs to discover solutions to the challenges they face is through purposeful engagement with one another. As an experiential learning opportunity, the Startup Huddle format is consistent in each location: on a given morning, one or two early-stage startup founders give a six-minute presentation of their companies to a diverse audience of peers, mentors, educators, and advisors. Each presentation is followed by a 20-minute question and answer session and feedback via an audience survey.

### Startup Compete | [startupcompete.co](http://startupcompete.co)

Startup Compete is a global networking site and competition platform for aspiring entrepreneurs, mentors and advisors to connect with each other and bring potential business ideas to market. The customizable white-label platform has powered hundreds of competitions in more than 125 countries – providing organizers with a simple and efficient tool to manage their competitions and offer emerging startups a chance to hone their skills and make connections that will take them to the next level.

### Global Enterprise Registration | [ger.co](http://ger.co)

Global Enterprise Registration is an index of web portals around the world allowing online business registration or describing the business registration process. It is intended to promote the use and improvement of business registration services worldwide, by allowing easy access to existing online systems and by facilitating the exchange of experiences and best practices among governments. Global Enterprise Registration is jointly produced by UNCTAD and the Global Entrepreneurship Network.

### Startup Open | [startupopen.co](http://startupopen.co)

Startup Open is a global startup competition organized on GEN's Startup Compete platform to identify, connect and recognize promising young startups around the world. The top virtual applicants from around the world join the global winners of GEN's affiliated live competitions in being offered admission into GEN Starters Club. Following due diligence and interviews with a panel of investors, the top GEN Starters travel to the GEC to be recognized in front of the world – and to face off against other finalists. Previous winners – which include startups from Israel, Croatia, Ghana and the United States – have been featured by *CNBC*, *CNN*, *Fast Company* and *Forbes*.

### Startup Experience | [startupexperience.org](http://startupexperience.org)

Startup Experience offers intensive transformational workshops designed to inspire the next generation of young entrepreneurs. It introduces students to the entrepreneurial mindset and provides hands-on training in high impact-entrepreneurship. Students build creative capacity and entrepreneurial confidence, and learn effective tools to build new ventures.

### Global Entrepreneurship Index | [thegedi.org](http://thegedi.org)

The Global Entrepreneurship Index is an annual index that measures the health of entrepreneurship ecosystems in 130 countries. It collects data on the entrepreneurial attitudes, abilities and aspirations of the local population and then weights these against the prevailing social and economic infrastructure – this includes aspects such as broadband connectivity and transport links to external markets. Overall, it is a compass for identifying initiatives and interventions that target a country's most critical areas.

### Global Entrepreneurship Congress | [gec.co](http://gec.co)

The Global Entrepreneurship Congress is a gathering of startup champions from around the world—where entrepreneurs, investors, researchers, thought leaders and policymakers work together to help bring ideas to life, drive economic growth and expand human welfare. The Congress brings together thousands of delegates from 160 countries to discuss economic and policy challenges around growing entrepreneurial ecosystems.

### Startup Nations Summit | [summit.startupnations.co](http://summit.startupnations.co)

The Startup Nations Summit features startup policy advisors and startup community leaders collaborating on smarter policies and public sector driven programs to better enable high-impact entrepreneurship. GEN cohosts the event each year in late November as the official conclusion to Global Entrepreneurship Week. The summit launched in 2012 in Toronto and has since been held in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia; Seoul, South Korea; and Monterrey, Mexico.

### GEC+ | [gecplus.co](http://gecplus.co)

Since it launched in Kansas City, the Global Entrepreneurship Congress has evolved into a large-scale event that brings together thousands of delegates covering diverse elements of startup ecosystems around the world. GEC+ has now emerged to fill a need for more focused and in-depth collaboration – bringing global expertise to bear on a concentrated issue or geographic region – to accelerate new firm formation and strengthen local, national and regional ecosystems.

## **Global Entrepreneurship Congress**

Johannesburg, South Africa | March 13–16, 2017

## **GEC+ Cape Town**

Cape Town, South Africa | March 17–19, 2017

## **GEC+ Bangkok**

Bangkok, Thailand | Fall 2017

## **Global Entrepreneurship Week**

November 13–19, 2017

## **Startup Nations Summit 2017**

Tallinn, Estonia | November 20–22, 2017

## **Global Entrepreneurship Congress**

Istanbul, Turkey | April 16–19, 2018

## **Global Entrepreneurship Week**

November 12–18, 2018

## **Global Entrepreneurship Week**

November 18–24, 2019



# LOOKING AHEAD

MAJOR GEN GLOBAL EVENTS

2017 - 2019

