NEW PERIOD OF ENTREPRENEURSHIP IN LEIPZIG

Best conditions for entrepreneurs
Leipzig has a lively start-up environment that attracts entrepreneurs from all over Germany.

Networks, Initiatives and Co.
The regional start-up scene profits from a large number of different players in Leipzig.

Subsidies and Financing
The SME support programme improves growth opportunities for small and medium-sized enterprises.

PROSPER IN LEIPZIG!
Clever minds have always been...

Carl Heine (1819–1888) was an important entrepreneur and industrial pioneer in Leipzig.

Lene Voigt (1891–1962) was a Leipzig writer and Saxon dialect poet.

Johann Sebastian Bach (1685–1750) was an organist, conductor, composer and St. Thomas choirmaster in Leipzig.

Gottfried Wilhelm Leibniz (1646–1716) was a polymath, born in Leipzig.
Werner Heisenberg
(1901–1976)
Nobel laureate in physics, head of the Institute for Theoretical Physics at the University of Leipzig from 1927

Clara Schumann
(1819–1896)
Piano virtuoso and composer, born in Leipzig

Johann Wolfgang von Goethe
(1749–1832)
Poet and natural scientist, studied at the University of Leipzig

Michael Petersen
graduated from the HHL Leipzig Graduate School of Management, and co-founded together with fellow students the online start-ups smow and spreadshirt

Carina Röllig,
Sabine Maßmann,
Dr. Hanna Köpcke
founded the software company Webdata Solutions/blackbee

... DRAWN TO LEIPZIG

New period of entrepreneurship in Leipzig
Best Conditions for Entrepreneurs

New period of entrepreneurship
Leipzig has a vibrant start-up ecosystem
Best conditions
Training and Research in Leipzig

Start-up networks at technical colleges and universities
SMILE
University of Leipzig
Leipzig University of Applied Sciences
Leipzig University of Cooperative Education
HHL Leipzig Graduate School of Management
Entrepreneur offices and initiatives

- Leipzig Start-Up Office
- AGIL GmbH Leipzig
- BIO CITY Leipzig
- Leipzig Chamber of Commerce and Industry (IHK) and Leipzig Chamber of Crafts and Trades
- SpinLab – The HHL Accelerator
- Basislager Coworking
- Social Impact Lab Leipzig
- futureSAX

Networking and Events

- Leipzig Start-up Night
- Entrepreneurs in starting position
- Two in one: Middle German IQ Innovation prize and Leipzig IQ Innovation prize
- Networking and Events
- Working alone is in the past

Subsidies and Financing

- Overview of Subsidies and Financing
- Leipzig is rewarding
GROWING CITY

Leipzig residents

Leipzig is one of the most dynamic cities in Germany. This is evident not only from the increasingly young population, but also from the significant increase in employment in recent years. Located in the centre of a metropolitan region with more than 2.25 million inhabitants, Leipzig is an attractive location for business, science, culture and above all for its citizens.

Leipzig Scores in the Competition

Second place in the city ranking for future viability

Leipzig achieved the highest growth rate of almost 10 per cent in population and the highest growth rate of all 30 cities at 7 per cent. Productivity growth is also the third highest (2011 to 2014). Source: World Economic Institute (HWWI) and the Privatbank Berenberg.

Leipzig is awarded digital hub status

Leipzig, together with Dresden, has been awarded the contract as a digital hub by the German Federal Ministry of Economics and Energy (BMWi).

Study: Leipzig has the most attractive city centre

Leipzig has received the best overall rating by far in a study conducted by the Cologne Institute for Trade Research (IFH) for the attractiveness of the city centre and is ranked first among 121 cities.

Financial Times fDi Magazine

Leipzig is among the top ten in the European Ranking Cities and Regions of the Future 2016/17 by fDi Magazine and took third place in the Cost-Effectiveness of doing Business category.

3rd place in Germany for the Leipzig/Halle logistics region

According to a ranking by the Bulwiengesa research institute, the Central German Centre ranks third among the 28 logistics regions in Germany, just behind Hamburg and Berlin.

Successful location

Internationally successful companies have chosen Leipzig as a business location. That includes BMW, Porsche, DHL, Amazon, Future Electronics, Telekom, KPMG and many more.

Satisfied office tenants

The most satisfied office tenants in Germany are based in Leipzig. The city receives top marks in terms of office space, costs and architecture.

Employees subject to social security contributions

Good reasons for choosing Leipzig:

- growing city
- broad economic base
- successful settlement of industrial cores
- a lively start-up scene
- vibrant higher education system and active companies
- low rental prices and location offers
- rich cultural scene
- no other large city in Germany has residents that are so satisfied
A HUB IN THE HEART OF EUROPE

1 hour to Berlin (ICE)
3 hours to Munich, Frankfurt, Hamburg (ICE)

Excellent infrastructure
- Motorways and routes in all directions
- Airport with 24-hour freight service
- High speed railways
- Modern telecommunications infrastructure
- Central Germany Suburban railway with 60,000 passengers per day

Five growing industries

In keeping with the motto “Strengthening strengths”, special support is given to areas with strong growth potential and sufficiently developed basic structures. With its economic strategy, Leipzig relies on carefully chosen sectors of the future:

**Automotive and supplier industry**

**Healthcare and biotechnology**

**Logistics**

**Media and creative industries**

**Energy and environmental technology**

New period of entrepreneurship in Leipzig
Since April 2017, the Smart Infrastructure Hub Leipzig has been one of the digital hubs within the initiative of the Federal Ministry of Economics and Technology (Bundeswirtschaftsministerium). It focuses on the topics energy, “Smart City”, e-health, and related cross-sectoral technologies. This is a very application-oriented approach, which is intended to implement the technologies of innovative start-ups worldwide in real-life applications together with partners from business, science and politics. In addition to the Free State of Saxony and the City of Leipzig as well as the universities (University of Leipzig, HTWK Leipzig, HHL Leipzig Graduate School of Management), many companies from the region also participate together with the VNG Group, EEX European Energy Exchange, enviaM, Leipziger Gruppe, Porsche, DELL, AOK PLUS and Arvato Systems. SpinLab - The HHL Accelerator, already a prominent accelerator programme, will focus on these same themes and will bring together established companies and investors to assist start-ups in launching and financing their products.
Leipzig boasts a wide range of successful start-ups, entrepreneurial players and event formats.
Leipzig is currently drawing many start-ups from other cities who appreciate the city for its high quality of life at relatively low costs.
Numerous incubators and co-working spaces provide start-ups with space, know-how and idea exchange and tens of thousands of square metres of space.

Leipzig is currently experiencing a new period of start-up activity with an estimated 150 to 200 start-ups currently working here. While eCommerce start-ups such as Spreadshirt (today 500 employees) first settled in the city, industries such as Big Data (e.g. DataVirtuality, Webdata Solutions, ApiOmat, Solution Engine) and start-ups in the field of infrastructure such as energy (e.g. energy2-market, Rhebo, SENEC/Deutsche Energieversorgung) or mobility (nextbike, ekoio, busnetworx) have also been added. Companies such as futalis or PHACON have become established players in the fields of life science, health and medical technology. Today, Leipzig is more successful than any other location in Eastern Germany in attracting start-ups from other cities that relocate their main business to Leipzig (e.g. DIPAT, QLX, Sensape, food.de, Wundercurses, SelHID Technologies) or establish branches (e.g. trivago, CHECK24, Verivox).

Successful start-ups and digital companies in various industries (selection)

Leipzig has a positive migration record, most recently

- Leipzig has a vibrant start-up ecosystem that attracts entrepreneurs from all over Germany
LEIPZIG HAS A VIBRANT START-UP ECOSYSTEM

Start-up initiatives/incubators

· 2b AHEAD Ventures
· AGIL GmbH Leipzig, Technologiescouts
· Basislager Coworking for Start-ups and Freelancers
· futureSAX - the Innovation Platform of the Free State of Saxony
· HHL Leipzig Graduate School of Management
· Inkubator für Technologie-Start-ups, Institut für angewandte Informatik
· SMILE – Selbst Management Initiative Leipzig
· Social Impact Lab Leipzig für Social Start-ups
· SpinLab – The HHL Accelerator
· StarterCenter der IHK und HWK
· Unternehmensgründerbüro (ugb)

Start-Up Competitions

· German Start-Up Award
· futureSAX Idea Competition
· Start-up competition – Digital Innovation
· Start-Up competition – ICT innovative
· IQ Innovation Award Middle Germany
· IQ Innovation Award Leipzig
· Cultural and Creative Pilots Germany
· Leipzig Start-up night
· Project "Young Start-ups"

Event formats for start-ups

· Accelerate@HHL Konferenz
· Chaos Communication Congress
· DreamHack Leipzig
· Frauen überholen anders
· F**kUp Nights
· futureSAX-Gründerforum (Leipzig)
· Founder’s breakfast and informal get-togethers (e.g. Basislager, Gründernest, SMILE, Social Impact Lab)
· Hackathons
· HHL International Investors Day
· IHK-Gründerabend
· SMILE-Gründercoaching
· Startup SAFARI Leipzig
· Startup Weekend
Co-working-Spaces
- Basislager Coworking
- chaos coworking
- Contorhaus
- eis30 Coworking
- plug and work
- Raumstation Coworking
- Rockzipfel
- sekretär coworking
- SIMPLIOFFICE – Event- und Markenservice
- Social Impact Lab
- South L.E. Desktops
- Studio Delta
- Tapetenwerk

Company Builder
- BIO CITY Leipzig, technology and start-up centre for start-ups in the life sciences sector
- Business & Innovation Centre Leipzig (BIC)
- cIT Leipzig GmbH
- evermind
- Existenzgründerzentrum (EGZ), Schulungs- und Beratungsge-sellschaft
- GaraGe – Kompetenzzentrum für Jugend, Technik und Bildung
- Ideentransfer GmbH
- Makerspace Leipzig, open workspace
- Sächsischer Inkubator für Klinische Translation (SIKT)
- Starter Space, retail business for start-up-products
- DREFA Virtual Reality Lab

Networks
- 2b AHEAD Club
- Basislager
- Cluster IT Mitteldeutschland e.V.
- EXIST-Gründernetzwerk
- futureSAX – die Innovationsplattform des Freistaates Sachsen
- Gründernest Leipzig
- HHL Start-Up Bootcamp
- Kreatives Leipzig e.V.
- Kompetenzzentrum Kultur- & Kreatiwirtschaft des Bundes
- SMILE – Founder’s network of post-secondary and research institutions
- SpinLab – The HHL Accelerator
- Start-up Mitteldeutschland
- Unternehmernetzwerk Leipziger Westen
- startup-mitteldeutschland.de as a regional news magazine
BEST CONDITIONS
Leading research and educational facilities for infrastructure and start-ups are available

- Leipzig has an outstanding research landscape with a focus on infrastructure, environmental and energy research as well as entrepreneurship.
- In addition to the universities, the UFZ, DBFZ, Fraunhofer-IMW, TROPOS and iDiV deal with infrastructural questions and environmental aspects.
- Science research in the University Association Halle – Jena – Leipzig.

The post-secondary education landscape in Leipzig provides excellent training for young professionals and entrepreneurs. There is intensive, internationally recognised research in the fields of energy technology and energy management, infrastructure management, environmental research and health management.

The HHL Leipzig Graduate School of Management is also one of Europe’s leading business schools with a special focus on entrepreneurship. With the awards for best start-up university (Gründungsradar des Stifterverbandes der dt. Wissenschaft as well as the Financial Times Entrepreneurship Ranking) and the most international university in Germany (DAAD), HHL has two important aspects of a digital hub. In the area of academic start-up activities, the University of Leipzig has dominated the region for years and is one of its most important players for prospective start-ups. The University of Leipzig is the only non-technical representative among Germany’s major universities in this top group (Gründungsradar des Stifterverbandes 2016) and ranks among the top 5. Since 2006, the University has been successfully supporting the start-ups of students, graduates and employees of Leipzig’s post-secondary and research institutions, as well as the establishment and innovation projects of research-intensive companies. The Leipzig University of Applied Sciences offers start-ups and companies in the region a strong research partner for the development of technical innovations. In addition to universities, the Smart Infrastructure Hub also hosts relevant projects at research institutes such as the Helmholtz Centre for Environmental Research (UFZ) with 1,100 employees, the German Biomass Research Centre with 150 employees, Fraunhofer IMW and the Leibniz Institute for Tropospheric Research.

The University Association of Halle – Jena – Leipzig is a special feature, which leads to the coordination of content and cooperation between the universities and is a good example of Leipzig’s leading role in the metropolitan region of Central Germany. One of the university network’s most successful research projects is the German Centre for Integrative Biodiversity Research (iDiv), which was established in 2012 and is operated in cooperation with the UFZ.
TRAINING AND RESEARCH IN LEIPZIG

Biotechnological-Biomedical Centre
Interdisciplinary Centre for Bioautomatic Engineering
Sächsischer Inkubator für klinische Translation
University Teaching Centre Saxony
LUFE- Leipzig Research Centre for Civilization Diseases
Centre for Teacher Education and School Research
Integrated Research and Treatment Centre for Obesity Diseases
Innovation Centre for Computer-Assisted Surgery
Centre for Area Studies
Magnetic Resonance Centre
Centre for Clinical Studies Leipzig

Helmholtz Centre for Environmental Research – UFZ:
· CoKnow Consulting
· ELANA Boden Wasser Monitoring
· Isodetect GmbH
· MeGaSen – Membranbasierte Gassensoren UG (limited liability)
· OLANIS Expertensysteme GmbH

Max Planck Institute for Evolutionary Anthropology
Max Planck Institute for Human Cognitive and Brain Sciences
Max Planck Institute for Mathematics and Natural Sciences

Leipzig Institute for Eastern European History and Culture
Leibniz Institute for Tropospheric Research
Leibniz Institute for Regional Geography
Leibniz Institute of Surface Engineering

Fraunhofer Institute for Cell Therapy and Immunology:
· Oncotrition GmbH
· RIBOLUTION Health GmbH
· Sonovum AG
· Tutelacell GmbH

Leibniz-Institute for Metabolism, Obesity and Vascular Research (HI MAG)

Leipzig University of Applied Technical, Economic and Cultural Leipzig (HTWK Leipzig)
Science Research and Transfer Centre e. V. of the HTWK Leipzig

Fraunhofer Center for International Management and Knowledge Economy
Fraunhofer Institute for Cell Therapy and Immunology

Leipzig Institute of Energy GmbH
Saxon Academy of Sciences in Leipzig
German Biomass Research Centre (DBFZ)
German Centre for Integrative Biodiversity Research

Examples of spin-offs:

**Helmholtz Centre for Environmental Research – UFZ:**
· CoKnow Consulting
· ELANA Boden Wasser Monitoring
· Isodetect GmbH
· MeGaSen – Membranbasierte Gassensoren UG (limited liability)
· OLANIS Expertensysteme GmbH

**Fraunhofer Institute for Cell Therapy and Immunology:**
· Oncotrition GmbH
· RIBOLUTION Health GmbH
· Sonovum AG
· Tutelacell GmbH

**Leibniz-Institut für Oberflächen-modifizierung e. V. (IOM):**
· Cetelon Nanotechnik GmbH
· IOT GmbH
· NTG Neue Technologien GmbH & Co. KG
· OPTEC GmbH
· Trionplas Technologies GmbH
· Solarion AG

Other universities and research centres

Academy of Fine Arts
University of Music and Theatre
Deutsche Telekom – Leipzig University of Applied Telecommunications Sciences (HTLU)
Leipzig School of Media
University of Cooperative Education Saxony
FOM University of Applied Science Kunststoff-Zentrum Leipzig
Leipzig Institute of Energy GmbH
Saxon Academy of Sciences in Leipzig
German Biomass Research Centre (DBFZ)
German Centre for Integrative Biodiversity Research
Deutsches Biomasseforschungszentrum GmbH

New period of entrepreneurship in Leipzig 13
Launched in 2006 at the University of Leipzig, the start-up initiative SMILE supports start-ups in a wide range of industries. The focus is on research and knowledge-intensive start-ups in the fields of biotechnology, healthcare and technology, but also on promoting creativity, leisure, communication, sustainability and social welfare.

**Range of services and offers:**
- more than 100 workshops, seminars per year and individual coaching for founders
- annual summer courses
- conferences and publications
- Leipzig Start-Up Night for the annual award of outstanding start-ups and innovative ideas
- 6 information centres in Leipzig
- individual coaching, access to investors
- competent SMILE coaches and trainers, with knowledge in a variety of industries
- networks

**Cooperative Project:**
- of the University of Leipzig, the HHL Leipzig Graduate School of Management, the Helmholtz Centre for Environmental Research (UFZ) and The German Biomass Research Centre (DBFZ)
- funded by the European Union, the Free State of Saxony and the participating universities
- Over 440 start-ups
- over 1,100 jobs created in Leipzig
- > 30 million Euros raised by start-ups
- Winner of National Competitions: IKT Innovativ, Science4Life, Start2grow etc.

Over 1,100 newly created jobs

Over 440 founded within 11 years

SMILE
Start-up network of universities and research institutions
Entrepreneurship Programmes

SMILE focuses on the learner. Our aim is to discover and develop the talents within each individual. The events and learning principles are based on a socio-constructive approach that forms the basis of all entrepreneurship activities we pursue.

- **Qualification**: The qualification program enables scientists, graduates, and students to develop a plan for their own company and acquire complementary skills.

- **Rationale**: Start-up coaches provide support in all aspects of business start-ups: product and business model development, marketing concept, sales planning and corporate finance.

- **Financing**: At SMILE, together with the entrepreneurs, we examine what funds are possible – grants, programmes, loans. Together we prepare the documents and forms, train for negotiations, contact the financiers, evaluate their offers.

SMILE at the University of Leipzig

In addition to the introductory offer SMILE.start, which the start-up Initiative SMILE offers at all universities and research institutions in Leipzig, students, employees, and graduates of the University can benefit from other special offers. This includes SMILE.markttest, an additional innovative offer for Start-Ups, with which SMILE enables an early market test for the products and services of the start-ups. This involves a special form of market feedback and a realistic examination of the feasibility of ideas and business models with potential customers. In addition, the team at the University of Leipzig has developed special offers for market entry for freelancers and uses methods from the arts and sports in another innovative module – SMILE.performance – for effective preparation for self-employment.

SMILE.medibiz, which was established several years ago, is aimed primarily at young companies in the fields of medical technology, biotechnology, medical services and environmental technology. SMILE.medibiz supports Leipzig start-ups in opening up new markets in Germany and abroad and helps them to set up networks and secure the next financing round.

At the University of Leipzig, start-up teams at SMILE.lab and the Saxon Incubator for Clinical Translation will be able to use the infrastructure for incubation in the seed phase to optimally prepare for market launch.
Examples of spin-offs:
- Akwaba Travel GmbH (akwaba-afrika.de)
- BEBE Medien GmbH (detektor.fm)
- ecSeq Bioinformatics GmbH (ecseq.com)
- Data Virtuality GmbH (datavirtuality.de)
- Effigos AG (effigos.com)
- Futalis GmbH (futalis.de)
- innovably GmbH (whyapply.de)
- Matchwerk Solutions UG (matchwerk.de)
- BeGreat GmbH (neuronade.com)
- Phacon GmbH (phacon.de)
- style-ich GmbH (signuu.com)
- VivoSensMedical GmbH (vivosensmedical.com)
- Webdata Solutions GmbH (webdata-solutions.com)

A special offer for business ideas from research in the IT sector is offered by the Institute for Applied Computer Science (InfAI, an affiliated institute of the University of Leipzig): Together with investors, companies are to be supported primarily in the areas of future-oriented fields such as data analytics, industry 4.0, the Internet of Things, big data/smart data and the energy industry. The incubator is aimed specifically at scientists who are willing to set up a company in order to support technology start-ups on the basis of research results. Not only should teams from the InfAI transfer scientific know-how into successful business start-ups, but also start-up teams outside the InfAI should be able to receive targeted support from experts. More information can be found at infai.org.

Current projects:
- Project by the Biomedical Data Science Competence Centre: "STEADY (2016–2019)"
- Projects of the research group Smart Energy IT Systems: "Management Cockpit for Regenerative Energy (REMC)"
- Projects of the E-Commerce research group: "Smarter Shopping (SmSh)"
The Leipzig University of Applied Sciences and Arts (HTWK Leipzig) combines practice-oriented teaching and applied research. The unique selling point of the university is its broad engineering and technical profile. Together with the economic, social and cultural sectors, HTWK Leipzig offers a wide range of teaching and research opportunities at its seven campuses. HTWK Leipzig is one of the most research-intensive universities for applied sciences in Germany.

HTWK Leipzig regards spin-offs from science as an important element for the transfer of technology from research to business practice. In doing so, the university supports innovative scientists in their start-up projects with individual consulting and training courses and provides support in applying for funding.

Competencies and knowledge for founders of new businesses are imparted in the context of student education especially by the Faculty of Economics. The graduate centre of the Leipzig University of Applied Sciences offers corresponding courses for young researchers. Through its research and transfer centres HTWK Leipzig supports founders in the targeted development and production of prototypes, the realisation of sample and small series as well as various technical tests in the course of product development. These offers are also open to external founders on the path of cooperative cooperation.

**Examples of spin-offs:**
- Real Surgical Training Technologies GmbH
- LeFx GbR
- Baustoffprüflabor Müller & Lobisch GmbH
- videostream360 GmbH
- Conci HR UG
- tuttisolo UG

LEIPZIG UNIVERSITY OF COOPERATIVE EDUCATION

University of Cooperative Education Saxony and Leipzig

The University of Cooperative Education Saxony has been enriching the university landscape for 25 years and combines theory and practice with its dual studies. In six semesters, both scientifically sound knowledge and practical skills are imparted. Knowledge and technology transfer is an important concern of the University of Cooperative Education Saxony.

**Examples of spin-offs:**
- G&W Gewerbe und Wohnen e. K.
- WOHNfühlt Immobilien GmbH
- KKS Leipziger Immobilienservice GmbH
- Kirchberger Immobilendienst
- Larbig & Mortag Immobilien GmbH
Another confirmation for the HHL Leipzig Graduate School of Management as one of the best founders in Germany: After the two previous rankings in 2013 and 2014, it was once again able to achieve first place in 2017 within the “Founding Radar” published by the Stifterverband für die Deutsche Wissenschaft among all nationwide business schools and universities with up to 5,000 students.

Start-up support organizations at HHL:

- three entrepreneurship-oriented professorial chairs
- the student initiative Accelerate@HHL
- the “Self-Management Initiative Leipzig” (SMILE)
- the association for innovation, business start-up and growth at Graduate School of Management e. V. (VIEW)
- SpinLab – The HHL Accelerator

Highly acclaimed activities at HHL:

- HHL International Investors Day
- Accelerate@HHL
- Start-up Career Fair
- India Business Day
- Regularly held start-up workshops with guest speakers from science and industry
- Practical projects in which student teams under the direction of a chair cooperate with start-up entrepreneurs and examine the marketability of their business idea

An important aspect of HHL’s start-up support is the involvement of former students in the activities. On the one hand, alumni are involved through guest lectures and the quarterly “Start-up Career Fair”. On the other hand, HHL’s alumni network also explicitly addresses start-ups. The important role of the alumni in HHL’s start-up projects is effectively demonstrated by their high presence in initiating and supporting start-ups from HHL.

Examples of spin-offs:

- Auto1 Group
- HitFox
- Lieferheld
- Lecturio
- trivago
HHL Start-up competitions

HHL Best Founders Award
With the support of the Karl-Kolle Foundation and the Society of Friends of HHL e. V., HHL awards prizes to the best business models in the field of digitisation and presents them to investors.
Industry: Digitisation
Participants: 22 Teams
Winners: flynex, Sensape, SoNovum

Best Bio-based Award
The best business models in the field of bio-based economics will be awarded here.
Industry: Bio-based economy
Participants: 5 Teams
Winner: Green City Solutions

EY Public Value Award
Together with EY, start-ups that make a positive contribution to the common good are awarded.
Industry: Open
Participants: 120 Teams
Winners: Social-Bee, SirPlus, Coffee Circle

Accelerate@HHL Best Pitch
Students, young entrepreneurs and young scientists award prizes to the best business models in the field of digitisation.
Industry: Digitisation
Participants: 10 Teams
Winner: SoNovum

HHL Start-up Bootcamp
Start-up teams are formed and ideas for start-ups are developed within a weekend.
Participants: 5 Teams
Winner: Karmalicious
Range of services and offers:
- start-up consulting
- support in the establishment process
- pilot position with regard to relevant contact persons
- information on public funding assistance
- information on the preparation of the business plan
- examination on the request of the start-up companies for coherence and completeness
- industry information and procurement of industry-specific contacts
- training opportunities
- business start-up and one-day seminars
- informational events

Affiliated partners
- Stadt Leipzig, Landkreis Leipzig, Landkreis Nordsachsen, Sparkasse Leipzig
- Founded in 1998
- 6,752 start-ups managed in total
- 107 start-ups managed in 2016
- 9,664 newly created jobs
- 144 newly created jobs in 2016

Examples of successful start-ups
- Colugo GmbH
- Digital Impact Labs Leipzig GmbH
- Expanding Focus GmbH
- Immuthera GmbH
- Texlock GmbH

AGIL
AGIL GmbH Leipzig, Technologiescouts – Searching for clues to success

Since 2013, AGIL GmbH Leipzig has successfully implemented the pilot project "Technologiescouts" on behalf of the City of Leipzig and the Leipzig Chamber of Industry and Commerce. Companies in the region are the target group for this attractive range of services with qualified advice from four experienced technology scouts. They are supported in starting and developing their own innovation activities. The aim of the "Technologiescouts" is to help small and medium-sized enterprises, especially in the manufacturing sector
- to initiate in-house research and development activities,
- to encourage the establishment of an operational innovation management system,
- to provide methods and tools for successful innovation management,
- find suitable scientific partners for them,
- support the exploration and implementation of eligible research and development projects; and
- to draw up financial plans.
BIO CITY LEIPZIG
Technology and start-up centre for start-ups in the life science sector with a focus on red biotechnology

Range of services and offers:
- advice on financing and marketing issues
- cooperation and funding opportunities
- technology transfer through BIO-NET LEIPZIG GmbH
- services for tenants (reception management etc.)
- rental of venues for events
- event management
- inter-company health promotion "BioCityfit!"
- BIO CITY NEWS

Labiotech.eu, the largest European digital biotech journal, has selected BIO CITY Leipzig as one of the 15 best European biotech start-up centres.
- Founded in 2003

Examples of successful start-ups:
- Haema AG
- Vita 34 AG
- c-LEcta GmbH

Start-up consulting
In the orientation consultation, the Leipzig Chamber of Commerce and Industry (IHK) and the Leipzig Chamber of Crafts and Trades provide basic information on all aspects of setting up a business and discuss with potential entrepreneurs the possible further course of events and the implementation of the founding idea.

Additional offers of the Leipzig Chamber of Crafts and Trades
- Business start-up seminars in the Chamber of Commerce
- Corporate succession consultations

Start-up night
Early and comprehensive information is the alpha and omega for any successful business start-up. The Leipzig Chamber of Industry and Commerce (IHK) understands this need and offers a start-up evening twice a month as an introduction to the topic of self-employment. It is aimed at entrepreneurs who wish to become self-employed in the field of business.

leipzig.ihk.de/existenzgruendung
SpinLab – The HHL Accelerator (spinlab.co) is a cooperation project between the internationally-renowned creative area of the Leipzig Baumwollspinnerei (old cotton spinning mill) and the globally-famous business institution HHL Leipzig Graduate School of Management. It combines creative atmosphere with entrepreneurial know-how plus network in a unique way. An international team with seven employees and 70 mentors is currently working in the SpinLab.

The six-month support programme for early-stage start-ups offers the following benefits:

- start-up grants up to 10,000 Euros
- intensive counselling (incl. 70 renowned mentors)
- network to established companies and investors
- co-working
- access to technology
- recruiting networks
- international exchange program with partner accelerators in California, Israel and Chile

The strictly selected program participants (3 – 5 percent of the applicants) have come from Berlin, Munich, Hamburg, Cologne, Düsseldorf, Dresden and some of them have settled in Leipzig for the long term as part of the program. SpinLab operates a co-working space for alumni start-ups.

- 90% of the supported start-ups can boast successful market entry
- 175 million Euros acquired | approximately 650,000 – 700,000 Euros of financing per early-stage start-up
- approximately 200 Jobs | on average 7 Jobs per early-stage start-up
- 31 prizes have been won by start-ups

SpinLab – The HHL Accelerator

- successful, established support programme
- consulting/mentoring
- network to established companies and investors
- access to technology
- recruiting-Networks
- international exchange programmes for seed phase start-ups

Our Partners are:

Range of services and offers:
- office infrastructure for start-ups and freelancers
- event space
- start-up events
- conferences
- Startup Weekend
- Startup Safari Leipzig
- crowdfunding consultation
- angel and investor network
- mentorship

Affiliated partners
- Leipziger Verlags- und Druckereigesellschaft
- MADSACK Mediengruppe

- Founded in 2015
  - 60 start-ups managed in total
  - 45 start-ups managed in 2016
  - 180 newly created jobs
  - 80 newly created jobs in 2016

Examples of successful Start-Ups
- Apoly GmbH
- BirdieMatch GmbH
- Crowdfunding Campus GmbH
- Entrebridge UG
- ProCopter GmbH
The Social Impact Lab is a start-up centre and co-working space in Plagwitz. Since 2014, the Lab has been supporting start-ups with socially innovative ideas in the development of a sustainable business model. It has helped young entrepreneurs up to the age of 30 to implement their plan. The Social Impact Lab is open to start-ups through the Social & Entrepreneurship Scholarship, which offers up to eight months of coaching, mentoring, workplace, network, and community. Entrepreneurs can receive up to twelve months of start-up support via an individual consulting process.

Those who do not wish to take advantage of one of the intensive programmes can rent as a co-worker, take part in events and receive occasional start-up support. The community of the Social Impact Lab Leipzig is made up of entrepreneurs from different industries: Education, Fair Fashion, Health & Nutrition, Sustainable Product Development, Gastronomy & Retail, Cultural and Creative Industries, etc. Detailed information about the start-up community can be found on the website. The Social Impact Lab is part of the Social Impact gGmbH network and is thus one of eight labs throughout Germany. The Lab thus offers all start-ups a large network of partners and stakeholders.

Range of services and offers:
- 8 – 12 months start-up support programme for social start-ups and young entrepreneurs
- individual coaching
- mentoring
- access to local and German-wide Stakeholder-Networks & Social Start-up Community
- co-working space

Financial Partners
- Social Impact gGmbH, Drosos Stiftung

Examples of successful start-ups:
- Heldenküche
- mormor
- tutory
- we are KAL
- Whole Food Box
futureSAX
Innovation Platform of the Free State of Saxony

Network for start-ups, entrepreneurs, scientists and investors.

futureSAX – the innovation platform of the Free State of Saxony is an initiative of the Saxon State Ministry of Economic Affairs, Labour and Transport. futureSAX provides growth impulses for founders and companies from Saxony and links cross-industry innovators from science and industry. futureSAX offers start-ups and entrepreneurs numerous contact opportunities with investors to finance their growth.

Profile of futureSAX:
· innovation and growth accelerators
· networks of over 7,000 contacts
· key target groups: innovative start-ups, growth-oriented entrepreneurs
· bringing together representatives from politics, science, business and investors
· competitions: futureSAX ideas competition, Saxon Transfer Prize, Saxon State Prize for Innovation
· events: knowledge transfer, networking and stimulation

Start-up Partner Network
For founders, the futureSAX start-up partner network (with a calendar of events) offers a very helpful representation of the public institutions that support start-ups in Saxony.
futuresax.de/start-up-partnernetzwerk

Saxon Mentoring Networks
Through the mentoring network, founders get to know committed entrepreneurs, employees and knowledge carriers who provide their knowledge and experience in the growth process. In this way, founders gain experience in an important subject area for them, broaden their own opinion process through successful strategies and tactics of third parties and receive an external reflection on their plans and goals.
futuresax.de/mentoring

Visibility for Saxony’s start-ups
With the ideas competition, futureSAX increases visibility for Saxon start-ups and supports the development of good ideas into viable business concepts. At trade fairs such as the KarriereStart, Hannover Messe or CEBIT, futureSAX offers start-ups the opportunity to present themselves with their own format, the Start-up Corner.
futuresax.de/gruender
At the Leipzig Start-Up Night, successful start-ups and companies established on the market as well as promising ideas are honoured. Prizes are awarded in the following categories:

- **Idea (prize money 2,000 Euros):** The authors of the best sketches present their ideas to a broad public at a festive evening event. The guests of the Leipzig Start-Up Night choose the winner of the idea prize, which will be announced and awarded that evening.

- **Start-up (prize money 6,000 Euros):** Winner of the regional business plan competition

- **Ten Years After:** You cannot apply for this category. The prizewinner is nominated and selected by an expert jury. Criteria for selection include: The solidity of the company’s previous planning, efficient management, strong sales and earnings potential, and a high level of profitability or earnings growth, as well as a positive corporate image.

- **Lifetime achievement award:** The lifetime achievement award is given to a person who is distinguished by a long-lasting, special and sustainable entrepreneurial commitment. The lifetime achievement award closes the entrepreneurial life-cycle. The life-cycle begins with an idea with which start-up companies dared to make the leap into entrepreneurship, continues across ten years of solid performance and finally reflects the company’s achievements.

**Promoters:**

- Sparkasse Leipzig
- Selbst Management Initiative Leipzig (SMILE)
- City of Leipzig
- Districts of Leipzig and North Saxony
- Leipzig Chamber of Crafts and Trades
- Leipzig Chamber of Industry and Commerce
- Technologiegründerfonds Sachsen
- S-Beteiligung der Sparkasse Leipzig

In 2016, 4F Lebensart GmbH was awarded the 2nd prize of 2,000 Euros, in the start-up category.
German Start-up Award
The German Start-up Award is awarded annually in the categories of students, start-up, promotion and lifetime achievement. Entrepreneurial models in different business phases are honoured.
deutscher-gruenderpreis.de

Start-up competition – Digital Innovation
The “Start-up Competition – Digital Innovation” is an ideas competition organised by the Federal Ministry of Economics and Energy (BMWi) which takes place in two phases. In the first phase, start-ups from the field of information and communication technology (ICT) can apply with a short outline of ideas.
gruenderwettbewerb.de

Project “Youth Start-ups”
Since 2015, Leipzig has hosted the interim finals of the nationwide competition “Youth Start-ups” every year. Young start-up teams from all over Germany present their business ideas to a jury. The winner takes part in the final round of the competition. The participating start-ups describe the difficult but rewarding way of starting a company to young people – and want to convince them with their ideas. The competition is organised by the Steinbeis Innovation Centre for Business Development on behalf of the Federal Ministry of Education and Research in cooperation with the City of Leipzig and the Leipzig Chamber of Commerce and Industry.
jugend-gruendet.de

futureSAX Ideas Competition
In the futureSAX Ideas Competition, just under a third of the applications come from information and communication technology, followed by the trade and e-commerce sector. A large number of them also come from the high-tech sector. With this competition, the Free State of Saxony wants to promote innovative and growth-oriented start-up projects and support the development of ideas into sustainable business concepts.
futuresax.de

Cultural and Creative Pilots Germany
Cultural and Creative Pilots is a competition for start-ups and self-employed individuals with particularly creative and culturally-oriented business ideas.
kultur-kreativpiloten.de
In Central Germany, there are many start-up competitions. An application for the IQ Innovation Award Central Germany is useful if start-ups are interested in an industry-specific competition with high funding, contacts in the economy and special marketing and PR services. IQ stands for Innovation Quotient. The individual prizes with a total value of 70,000 Euros are awarded to marketable products, processes and services related to the Automotive, Chemicals/Plastics, Energy/Environment/Solar Economy, Information Technology and Life Sciences clusters.

Leipzig applicants benefit from the umbrella brand model of the competition: With just one application, they can participate in the Central German competition of the Metropolitan Region of Central Germany as well as in the independent local competition of the Leipzig Foundation for Innovation and Technology Transfer.

IQ Innovation Award Leipzig
- **Goal**: to initiate and promote outstanding innovative ideas for translating scientific findings into new products and processes in Leipzig
- **Industry**: Automotive, Chemical/Plastics, Energy/Environment/Solar Technology, Information Technology, Life Sciences
- **Prize money**: 5,000 Euros
- **Prize provider**: Leipzig Foundation for Innovation and Technology Transfer

leipziger-stiftung.de

IQ Innovation Award Central Germany and IQ Innovation Award Leipzig

TWO IN ONE

Dr. Joachim Löffler, Managing Director of KUMATEC Sondermaschinenbau & Kunststoffverarbeitung GmbH, overall winner of the IQ Innovation Award Central Germany 2016

Metropolregion Mitteldeutschland Management GmbH
Hanka Fischer, Projektleiterin
IQ Innovationspreis Mitteldeutschland
Schillerstraße 5 | 04109 Leipzig
Tel: 0341 6001616
Email: info-mitteldeutschland.de

IQ Innovation Award Leipzig 2017: Texlock GmbH with the City of Leipzig and the jury chairman; from left: Lord Mayor Burkhard Jung (City of Leipzig), Suse Brand and Alexandra Baum (both Texlock GmbH), Prof. Dr. Utz Dornberger (University of Leipzig)

28 New period of entrepreneurship in Leipzig
Many of the internationally and nationally widespread event formats for start-ups take place regularly in Leipzig:

- Accelerate@HHL Konferenz
- Chaos Communication Congress
- DreamHack Leipzig
- Frauen überholen anders
- F**kUp Nights
- Start-up breakfasts and get-togethers (e.g. Basislager, Gründernest, SMILE, Social Impact Lab)
- Hackathons
- HHL International Investors Days – Energy-Tech, Smart City, MedTech
- Startup SAFARI Leipzig
- Startup Weekend
- SMILE-Gründermarktplatz

**Startup Weekend Leipzig**

The Startup Weekend Leipzig is a three-day event that creates the basis for a company or the launch of a product in 54 hours. The winning team receives the Startup Weekend Cup.

The best ideas for start-ups will be rewarded with valuable non-cash prizes, which are intended to support the participants in the further implementation of their ideas. Another useful prize: in the midst of potential investors, sponsors and like-minded people, the participants can exchange information about the opportunities and perspectives of cooperation in a relaxed atmosphere.

leipzig.startupweekend.org

**Enthusiastic entrepreneur – Frauen überholen anders.**

With this event, held as part of the Start-up Week Germany, the Office of Economic Development, the Chamber of Industry and Commerce and the Leipzig and SMILE Chamber of Trade express their appreciation for women’s entrepreneurial independence. "Begeistert Unternehmerin" brings together founders with successful women entrepreneurs. The motivational aspect is obvious: dedicated, dynamic women with an entrepreneurial spirit should be more present in public and encouraged to start their own business.

leipzig.startupsafari.com
Numerous incubators and co-working spaces provide start-ups with a location, know-how and idea exchange and tens of thousands of square metres of space.

The regional start-up scene profits from a large number of different players in Leipzig. There are currently about 15 to 20 smaller and larger co-working spaces and incubators in Leipzig. Altogether, the Trade Fair City offers innovation areas with a mid-five-digit square metre size.

There is also a wide range of co-working spaces:
- Basislager Coworking at a total of 1,700 sqm
- chaos coworking
- Contorhaus
- eis30 Coworking
- plug and work
- Raumstation Coworking Leipzig
- Rockzipfel
- sekretär coworking leipzig
- SIMPLIOFFICE
- South L.E. Desktops
- Studio Delta with 800 sqm space for Freelancers, developers and start-ups
- Tapetenwerk
Incubators for start-ups of all kinds:
- Business & Innovation Centre Leipzig (BIC) for Technology Companies (Total area approx. 5,000 sqm)
- BIO CITY Leipzig in Life Sciences (approx. 20,000 sqm)
- GaraGe – Competence Center for Youth, Technology and Education
- Sächsischer Inkubator für klinische Translation (SIKT)
- SMILE.Lab
- Social Impact Lab for Social Entrepreneurs (260 sqm)
- SpinLab – The HHL Accelerator for Technology Start-ups (approx. 1,600 sqm)
- and others (incl. InfAI Inkubator, 2b AHEAD Inkubator)
- In addition to consultancy services, the university start-up network SMILE provides space for university spin-offs
- Starter Space is a retail business for start-up products in the largest inner-city shopping centre (Brühl)

Tapetenwerk
The historic factory, which dates back to the Gründerzeit (years of rapid industrial expansion), has eight factory buildings and offices. They are used as a “production site” for artists, designers, architects and creative craftsmen, such as the Longboard workshop, or for new working concepts such as the co-working space.

Makerspace Leipzig
Across an area of 420 sqm the Makerspace Leipzig offers an open workshop for creative cross-technology projects – traditionally or digitally manufactured. A wood and metal workshop, a FabLab, a photo studio and a textile area are available.
OVERVIEW OF SUBSIDIES AND FINANCING

- Investment funds of Sparkasse
- Bürgschaftsbank Sachsen
- Bundesagentur für Arbeit
- Fördermitteldatenbank Sachsen
- High-Tech Gründerfonds HTGF III
- KfW Mittelstandsbank
- Mittelständische Beteiligungsgesellschaft Sachsen
- Small and medium-sized business development of the City of Leipzig
- Monkfish Equity
- Sächsische Aufbaubank
- Technologiegründerfonds Sachsen (Focus: high-tech start-ups)
- VisionBakery (crowdfunding platform)
- VNG Innovation (Corporate Venture Fund by the VNG Group)

Further information can be found in the subsidy compass of the Leipzig Chamber of Commerce and Industry:
leipzig.ihk.de/foerdermittelkompass
Support programmes for small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs)

The SME development programme of the City of Leipzig is a central pillar of the economic development programme. The aim is to develop practical, promising solutions and to provide financial support where the capacities of small and medium-sized enterprises are simply not sufficient. The funding programme was launched in 2013 with the aim of enabling small and medium-sized enterprises to make better use of their own potential and boost their supra-regional competitiveness, above all through innovation and technology-oriented project funding. The SME development programme of the City of Leipzig is aimed, on the one hand, at the existing company portfolio, but is also intended to provide an impetus for business start-ups and business settlements. Start-ups are supported through their first steps in Leipzig and can also make use of all further measures in the SME promotion program after successful establishment.

The SME development programme comprises three lines:

1. Establishment and Support in Leipzig
2. Stock Promotion
   - Exchange creative ideas
   - Growth-related location development
   - Management help
   - Innovation in SMEs
   - Development of new markets (trade fair promotion)
   - Testing an E-vehicle in day-to-day operations
   - Introduction of a quality management system
   - Local technology exchange
   - Supra-regional growth/restructuring report
   - Business transfer report
   - Crisis management report
3. Start-up support
   - Master start-up grant
   - Employee development for start-ups
   - Award for innovative start-ups

Since 2013 more than 500 companies assisted, 75% of applications approved, 3,600 Euros average in funding, 600,000 Euros per year in funding.
The special start-up support within the scope of the SME development programme of the City of Leipzig

**Award for innovative start-ups**

The measure aims to promote innovative start-ups in the City of Leipzig. These may be technology-oriented foundations or foundations that enrich the City of Leipzig with unusual business ideas. Independence is promoted through the foundation of an innovative company in the City of Leipzig and the first use of commercial premises for the new company.

Selection of supported companies:
- Sensape GmbH (interactive infotainment)
- Rhebo AG (cyber security, operational technology)
- DIPAT die Patientenverfügung GmbH (online patient forms)
- Apoly GmbH (online pharmaceutical services)
- Relax Commerce (e-Commerce)
- Texlock GmbH (high-tech textiles)

**Employee development for start-ups**

This support measure promotes the growth of newly founded companies by creating additional jobs in Leipzig. Experience has shown that recruiting the first employee proves to be a major challenge, as it is the first time that a young company is faced with employment contract obligations, long-term financial burdens and social responsibility. The recruitment and employment of the first employee in young companies is therefore encouraged.

Selection of supported companies:
- KQ/OK, Architekturbüro
- Eiszeitlounge Leipzig, cold therapy, fitness studio
- Social Media Profis, advertising agency
- Malerfachbetrieb Torsten Schwarze
- Homegloss by Jeannette, domestic service
- Katrin Pradel, Kurhaus Bienitz, hospitality industry

**Master craftsman’s foundation grant**

The master craftsman’s foundation grant is intended to support start-ups in the craft trades and the creation or – in the case of company takeovers – securing of jobs. The award serves primarily as an incentive and relieves companies from the pressure of liquidity, particularly in the start-up phase.

Selection of supported master craftsmen:
- Nadine Felgentreff, master goldsmith
- Takao Nakawaga, brass instrument maker
- Michael Liborak, master mechanic (acquisition)
- Christoph Slawidis, Carpenter, Knofe-Design GbR (acquisition)
- Holger Martens, organic bakery
- Benjamin Oesch, prosthesis and orthotics manufacture
- Franz Richter, butcher (acquisition)