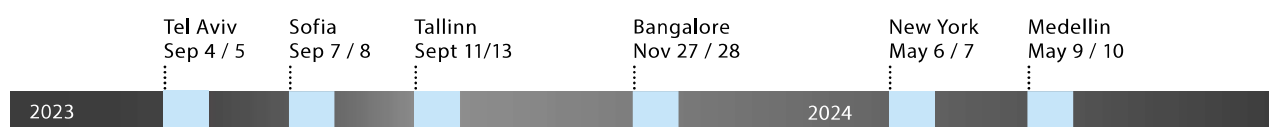


Global Innovation Expert



Program content SOFIA



SOFIA: THE RISING INNOVATION STAR

Sofia hosts a bubbling innovation and entrepreneurial ecosystem. The Sofia experiment has been very successful from its very first iteration. Sofia's strongest areas are its increasing employment in fast-growing innovative companies and its number of design and trademark applications. The ecosystem is broadening its entrepreneurial community, building collaboration with the Bulgarian diaspora and implementing a soundly articulated national strategy for smart growth as part of the global knowledge economy.

"ICT HOTSPOT"

The role of Information and Communication Technologies (ICT) is crucial for Sofia. Lately the city was ranked as the most attractive outsourcing destination in Europe, and third among cities with the highest number of startups. Most of these startups were innovation- and technology-driven ventures that relied heavily on digitalization. Over 78% of those employed in Bulgaria's ICT sector were located in Sofia, pushing the annual turnover for the industry in the city to EUR 4.6 billion (Digital Cities Challenge, 2019).

FUTURE POTENTIAL

Sofia's innovation and entrepreneurship ecosystem is highly dynamic and relatively new. Geographically, it is located in a region from which innovation news is somewhat unexpected. Thus, understanding the realities and the drivers behind Sofia's recent positive developments as a scene for innovation and entrepreneurial creation is all the more relevant. In recent years, Sofia has emerged as the go-to place for innovation and technology-driven entrepreneurship in the Balkans. This boosted local actors' confidence and kick-started the creation of a diverse and global entrepreneurial community with its first generation of serial entrepreneurs mostly in the IT domain.

IN THE SOFIA PROGRAM MODULE AMONGST OTHER THINGS WE SHOW:

- Why did Sofia attract so many young talents?
- How can other emerging innovation ecosystem learn from the young history of Sofia's success story?
- Can the success in the ICT sector be transferred to other industries?

including faculty from



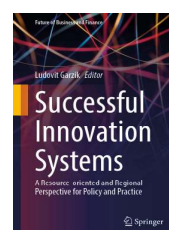
VENTUREOUT



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Program Pool

THE RECURSIVE

Founded 2021 in Sofia. The Recursive is an independent community-born online media focused on the emerging tech and startup ecosystems in Central Europe. Their mission is to provide constructive reporting on the progress of the local innovation community. Along with that, The Recursive has launched a platform called Growth Club, with a goal to connect startups, investors, journalists and other players in the CEE innovation ecosystem.



CAMPUS X

Campus X is one of the biggest co-working spaces in Bulgaria and an end-to-end ecosystem for tech and non-tech international companies, scale-ups, and startups. Established in 2018 in Sofia, it's the official workspace of over 60 companies, VCs, NGOs, and service providers. Campus X was founded by Telerik's Co-Founders (the biggest software exit in Bulgaria to date) - Boyko Iarmov, Vassil Terziev, and Svetozar Georgiev.



TELERIK ACADEMY

Telerik Academy is the first large private initiative for IT education in Bulgaria. It provides courses and programs for children and students with the goal to train the digital professionals of tomorrow. Founded in 2009 by the founders of Telerik - Svetozar Georgiev, Boyko Yarmov, Vasil Terziev and Hristo Kosev, Telerik Academy is one of the most successful educational projects in Bulgaria..



PAYHAWK

Payhawk offers an all-in-one finance solution for companies, combining credit cards, payments, and expenses into one experience. Founded in 2018, the fintech startup became the first Bulgarian unicorn in just under 4 years, making it one of the fastest-growing tech companies in all of Europe.



DRONAMICS

Dronamics is a Bulgarian deep tech startup, specializing in the development and operations of autonomous cargo drones. Recently Dronamics became the first company in the industry to obtain an EU operational license, allowing it to self-authorize flight operations across EU countries..



INSAIT

The Institute for Computer Science, Artificial Intelligence and Technology (INSAIT) opened its doors in 2022 in Sofia, Bulgaria as the first AI institute in Southeast Europe. INSAIT is created in partnership with ETH Zurich and EPFL Lausanne, two of the world's leading technology universities, and is structured as a special unit of the Sofia University "St. Kliment Ohridski". The university received funds from the Bulgarian government, as well as numerous tech companies, such as Google, Amazon Web Services (AWS) and SiteGround.



ENDUROSAT

EnduroSat is one of the fastest-growing space companies in Europe with an annual growth of 300% year to year. With a team of over 80 people, the Sofia-based company is planning on executing nine shared satellite missions until the end of 2023. To achieve this, Endurosat is collaborating with numerous space tech companies around the world, such as Momentus, IBM and Hypernova..



SOFIA TECH PARK

Sofia Tech Park is the first complex in Bulgaria that combines science and technology - an innovative environment where in addition to office buildings, one can find laboratories and several modernly furnished event halls. The venue develops initiatives to support startups, small and medium enterprises, science and education.



FEE €/US\$ 2.500,- p.P. (excl. VAT according to the terms, incl. all course materials, excl. travel expenses and accommodation)

ACCOMMODATION - SUGGESTION

HOTEL SENSE SOFIA, bul. „Tsar Osvoboditel“ 16, 1000 Sofia Center, Sofia, Bulgaria

LANGUAGE

English

NEXT DATES 2022/2023

2023: Sept: Tel Aviv / Sofia/ Tallinn; Nov: Bangalore Nov; 2024: May: New York, Medellin

ENROLLMENT

team@innovationorbit.com