

We're here to be your hub for

Do you know what you'll be doing on 11th of Jan 2035? I'll be right here, participating in Thursday Gathering and I hope you too. It's been a tough year for everyone, and the future is uncertain. But we're here to be your second home and the are certain. The good power than the future are certain. The good power than the future are certain. are certain. The good news is that the future is based on good foundation!

The place. In 2020 we started with opening a physical gravity point for the ecosystem. Our funding partner CIC signed a 15-year lease for running Innovation Campus at Chmielna 73. Thanks to that we have been able to give a lot of accessible tools for the local community and connect the ecosystem to the global network of innovation districts co-created by our global community in other

The community. We know that being surrounded by smart people is key to growth as an innovator. This is why we pay so big attention to build meaningful relations. As the largest open community of innovators in Warsaw, we've had to come together as a community of innovators to make it through one of the most challenging years ever. But we've made it and we're stronger because of it. In the future, this will be the biggest value of our ecosystem.

The platform. A lot of people know us for our high-impact programs. which are platform solutions. You can participate as an individual, or if you're a local leader, you have the option to build on top of those initiatives your programs focused on vou organisational goals witch are aligned with the mission and vision of our foundation.

We're going to be here for a long time, and we want you to join us. We've proven that even COVID won't stop our community from growing, and in this impact report we would like to share what happened in 2021 just to give all of you—the amazing people who were part of our success—a sense of how great our work together was last year. Thank you for a great collaboration in 2021. We are looking forward to do together even more in 2022.

Aureliusz Górski

Founding Executive Director Venture Cafe Warsaw Foundation Co-Founder of CIC Innovation Campus in Warsaw



WHO WE ARE

Venture Café is a non-profit, sister-organization of Cambridge Innovation Center (CIC) and part of a Venture Cafe Global Network. The Venture Café movement was started in 2010 in Boston and has expanded to many cities around the globe, catalyzing the rise of innovation districts. Venture Café activates innovation in cites through our high-impact programs. The aim of our programs is to create opportunities for engineered, "spontaneous" collisions, a center of gravity for the local innovation ecosystems, to amplify the work of the innovation community and to build intentional spaces for individuals to meet, learn and build relationships.

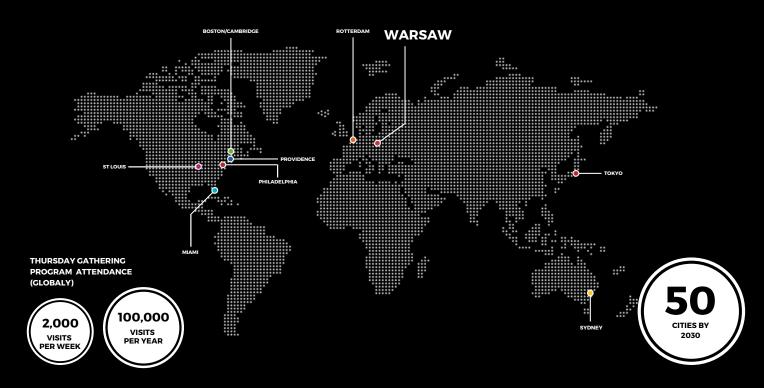
Warsaw's story:

- In 2015, the Venture Cafe spirit was introduced to Warsaw as a part of the expansion process of CIC. In 2017 the organisation was established by Timothy Rowe and Aureliusz Górski.
- In 2019 Venture Cafe Global Institute approved Warsaw's application and Warsaw officially joined the global network.
- In May 2019 Venture Café Warsaw launched its flagship program: Thursday Gathering starting the programming activities in Poland.



WARSAW IN GOOD COMPANY

Venture Café Warsaw enhances the international position of Poland as an attractive place for innovators through active participation in the global community. The network is supported by the Venture Café Global Institute- the umbrella organization that provides ongoing training, resources, convening opportunities, and guides new site expansion.





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WHY



Vision

To cultivate a community of engaged innovators focused on solving the pressing social, economic and technical challenges, to improve human conditions.



Mission

To connect innovators to #MakeThingsHappen



Purpose

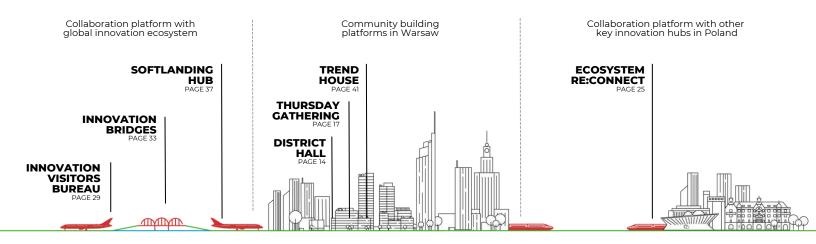
Globally: To build a global ecosystem of local communities that broaden access to capital (human, social, economic, intellectual, political) so all the innovators can experience economic mobility and prosperity.



WHAT

Our long-term goal is to catalyze the creation of an environment in Poland for innovators. We work with other innovation ecosystem leaders to create a better ecosystem for innovators like you. We are able to share best practices in how to build a strong innovation ecosystem thanks to our global experience in fostering innovation districts.

We're committed to creating an accessible spaces where innovators can meet and exchange ideas. Beyond our spaces, we also design high-impact programs that help innovators find their potential within the ecosystem. And we won't stop there — we share our resources with other organizations dedicated to supporting innovators and entrepreneurs so that together we can build every single program that is needed in the ecosystem.





OUR TEAM

WARSAW



AURELIUSZ GÓRSKIFounding
Executive Director
& Co-Founder of
the CIC Innovation
Campus



EWA GERESZProgram Director



KATARZYNA LINDNER Head of Administration



AGNIESZKA PHAN Event Director



NATALIA SINIŁOProgram Manager
at Trend House



MARTA ŁOGASZ Relationship Manager at Trend House

GLOBAL



TIMOTHY ROWEFounder of
Venture Cafe,
Founder & CEO
of CIC



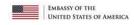
ZARA CRICHTON President of the Venture Cafe Global Institute



OUR AMAZING PARTNERS













































FOUNDING PARTNER

Venture Café began as a simple idea within the Cambridge Innovation Center (CIC) in Cambridge, Massachusetts. A longtime global leader in building innovation campuses and shared workspaces, CIC began evolving from its concept of physical spaces to one of greater meaningful community in 2009. This new iteration grew into a global movement known for its entrepreneurial resources and inclusivity. Today, Venture Café Global Institute – now its own enterprise – expands to new cities on its own as well as alongside other CIC ventures.



AMBASSADORS

Venture Café wouldn't be possible without our wonderful ambassadors. Every week volunteers help us facilitate connections by ensuring that Thursday Gatherings runs smoothly. We have a welcoming team, a bar team and floor connectors working hard to optimize the experience at Venture Café. We are always looking for people who want to help us out and further support our mission! Are you interested in innovation and do you want to contribute more to Venture Café?

Aigerim Fazylove Ellis Jordan Brock
Aisling Hunt Kaja Abdank
Alex Arsentiev Kaja Nidecka
Anya Lapich Katarzyna Klimek
Christopher Reyes Mihoe Sano
David Meister Patryk Ćwiek
Dominika Duda Tom Joseph







FREE COLLABORATIVE WORKSPACE

We created a wholly inclusive collaborative space that removed "barriers" from the ecosystem. This free co-working space increases human connectivity and welcomes all types of people, incredible ideas and new technologies. Through the free co-working space we increase the opportunity for economic mobility by lowering the entry barriers and creating a safe environment where more people can participate in the innovation sector. We strive to reach out to the whole community and bring new people into the ecosystem.





FREE & DISCOUNTED EVENT SPACE

Thanks to the support of companies who organize commercial events in our spaces, we support many non-commercial initiatives.

We host free of charge impact events with added social value. We accelerate innovation through engineered "spontaneous" collisions that bring together a diverse mix of the community. We aim to nurture collaboration, ignite creativity, and catalyze action to solve problems which humanity is facing today on a local and global level.









ABOUT OUR FLAGSHIP PROGRAM - THURSDAY GATHERING

Thursday Gathering is our main program.

It is a industry meetup of stakeholders of the ecosystem, catalyzing cross-sector collaborations. It is the largest cyclic innovation community gathering in Warsaw.

Our event attracts new and existing members of the innovation community, offering fun and inspiring collisions, networking opportunities and high-impact educational sessions, The program was launched in Warsaw in May 2019 as a monthly event. After 12 months we decided that Warsaw is ready for traditional weekly gatherings. Thanks to deep statistical insight, we are able to monitor the shape of Warsaw's ecosystem and design more programs to empower the hidden potential of the ecosystem...









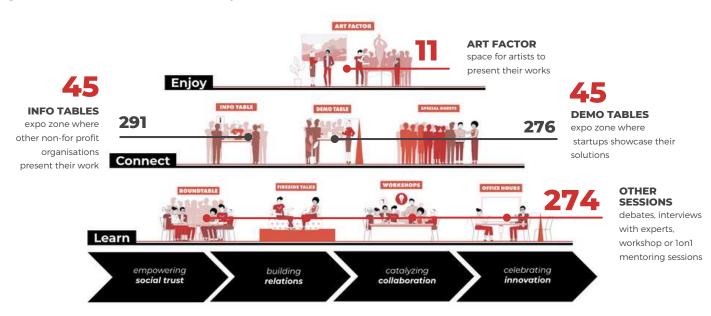






UNIQUE FORMULA

Our program partners are a mix of talented people from within our community as well as inspiring partners and experts from our (inter)national network. Together we create a huge number of reasons why to participate in Thursday Gathering. The main goal is one - accelerate innovation through engineered "spontaneous" conversations that bring together a diverse mix of the community and increase a social trust.





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THEMES IN 2021

45 gatherings and 348 sessions taking place during Venture Café's Thursday Gatherings in 2021, we housed an incredible amount of knowledge, expertise, and inspiration on a week-to-week basis. A total of 515 program partners and speakers have dedicated their time and effort to host sessions. We covered topics like:

- TG #038- SHE CONNECTS
- TG #039- CROWDFUNDING & INNOVATIONS
- TG #040 INNOVATION BRIDGE: WARSAW-BUCHAREST
- TG #041 INNOVATION DISTRICT HOW TO GET INVOLVED
- TG #042 INNOVATION BRIDGE: WARSAW-TALLINN
- TG #043 SOCIAL INNOVATION HEROES
- TG #044 INNOVATION BRIDGE: WARSAW-CHICAGO
- TG #045 STATE OF THE ECOSYSTEM
- TG #046 HEALTH TECH & WELL-BEING
- TG #047 SDG11: SUSTAINABLE CITIES & COMMUNITIES.
- TG #048 INNOVATION BRIDGE: WARSAW-NAIROBI
- TG #049 HUMAN-AI COLLABORATION
- TG #050 CREATIVE INDUSTRIES
- TG #051- TECH & HUMANITY
- TG #052 INNOVATION BRIDGE: WARSAW-TEXAS
- TG #053 FUTURE OF TECHNOLOGY
- TG #054 WARSAW 2030
- TG #055 GROWTH THROUGH INNOVATION
- TG #056 INNOVATION BRIDGE: WARSAW-BRUSSELS
- TG #057 INCLUSIVE BUISNESSES
- TG #058 SDG#7: CLEAN & AFFORDABLE ENERGY
- TG #059 VENTURE CAFÉ WARSAW 2ND BIRTHDAY

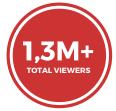
- TG #060 LEGAL TECHNOLOGY
- TG #061 OPEN INNOVATION
- TG #062 E-COMMERCE
- TG #063 INVESTMENTS
- TG #064 CYBERSECURITY & PRIVACY
- TG #065- MENTAL HEALTH & WELLBEING
- TG #066 LET'S CONNECT
- TG #067 THURSDAY GATHERING
- TG #068 BUSINESS & SUSTAINABILITY
- TG #069 -NEW WORK & FUTURE SKILLS
- TG #070 SHE CONNECTS
- TG #071 FUTURE OF AGRICULTURE, LET"S CELEBRATE LEM BIRTHDAY
- TG #072 INNOVATIVE TECHNOLOGY FOR CLIMATE ACTION.
- TG #073 LIFE SCIENCE
- TG #074 ART & TECHNOLOGY
- TG #075 DISRUPTING EDUCATION
- TG #076 NEXT GENERATION FOOD & DRINKS
- TG #077 INTERNET OF EVERYTHING
- TG #078 LET'S FINTECH
- TG #079 INNOVATION FOR FREEDOM
- TG #080 DIGITAL TRANSFORMATION
- TG #081 RESPONSIBLE CONSUMPTION & PRODUCTION
- : TG #082 CHRISTMAS PARTY FOR INNOVATORS

VOICE OF THE COMMUNITY

We established a stron partnership with Newseria Press Agency and our goal is to tell stories that are important to the community. We have a team of journalists dedicated to covering the most significant topics, from urban development to social initiatives and more. We were able to tell stories to 1329 837 people in Poland by showing what is happening on out Thursday Gathering. At every event, we have a professional journalist who does amazing material about what is going on. Then the stories is available on the news agency engine so many other media can easily spreed it through the all type of media.















Start-upowey z Polski połączyli siky, peby pomóc kolegom s Ukraing Porroga in utregmat bignesy i znalešť pracy catorikom rodzin, które uciakty do Pelski

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Hipmoterapia staje się w Polsce Bedania ruad dotwiadczeniam coraz popularnoeisza. Praca nad szczytowymi mogą podświadomością pomage w realizacji celów, równiaż prowadzenia psychoterapii. Prowadzi je nawo otwarty instutut w Warszawie

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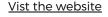
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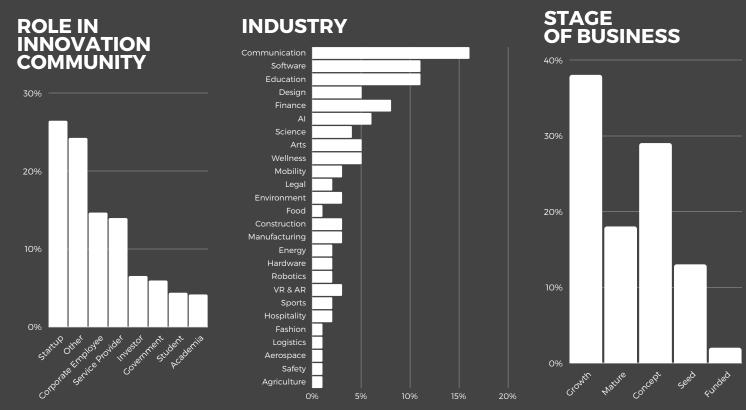
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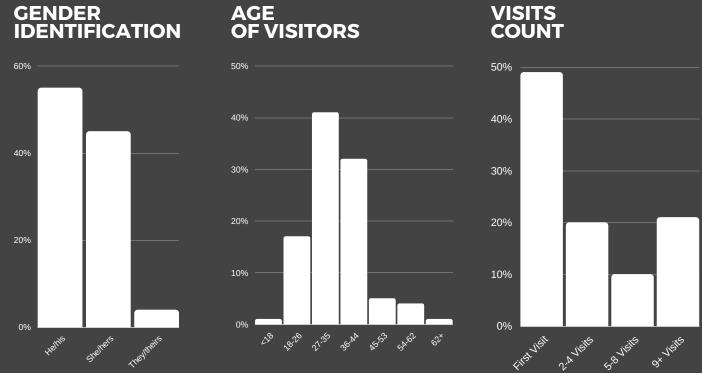




VISITOR DEMOGRAPHICS IN 2021



We keep a close eye on the demographics of our Thursday Gatherings. By doing so we continuously reflect on and improve our program and get to know our community. By tailoring our communication and sessions we can create a balanced and attractive event every week.



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ECOSYSTEM RE:CONNECT

Thursday Gathering program started as a way for Warsaw's innovation community to gather and connect. Later we discovered that this event is also a great place for people from other cities to meet and great opportunity to reconnect the Polish ecosystem. Thanks to the close location of the Innovation Campus to the central railway station it allow local ecosystem leaders to take a ~2h train, collaborate with others and come back on the same day. This is why we decided to start an experiment with a monthly event in Katowice. Since this program will be a success, we are hoping to have a similar partnership with 3 other cities in Poland reconnecting the ecosystem.



PILOT PROGRAM WITH SILESIA

Silesia Connect is a program bringing together leaders of local innovation ecosystems. It was created as a result of the need for greater supra-regional cooperation, and works to enable integration between leaders from different regional innovation ecosystems across Poland. The program is aimed at creating a platform for cooperation between Warsaw and Silesia. Its goal is to select and integrate proactive key players in the local innovation ecosystem and increase the visibility of the regional innovation ecosystem in Katowice in the world.

Silesia Connect partners in 2021: Invento Capital, SPIN-US, Katowice Special Economic Zone.



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PARTICIPANTS





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ABOUT IVB PROGRAM

Welcome to Poland! We love our country and we want to allow more people to fall in love in it. Every year around 80 mln people visit Poland. We believe that 20% of them could be interested in discovering the potential of collaboration and exploring the innovation ecosystem more.

This is why we started work on Innovation Visitors Bureau, a comprehensive pack of semiautomated services that can be used by broad group of institutions and make Poland better connected internally, nationally and globally.

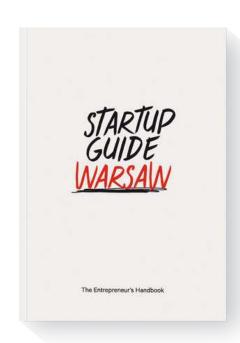


ADDING WARSAW TO THE LIST OF KEY STARTUP ECOSYSTEMS

It took us almost 3 years to make it happen and finally Warsaw's ecosystem will be listed among key startups ecosystems and the book available in best bookstores in the world

Startup Guide Warsaw will be presenting the startup and corporate innovation ecosystem making these actors more visible, it will offer the ecosystem an opportunity to present itself on a world stage among other key places in the world and thus attract international attention. In addition, to support young entrepreneurs and those on their way to becoming entrepreneurs,

This book is created by Startup Guide in partnership with Venture Café Warsaw and it is supported by Visa, Google for Startups, Santander Bank Polska, InnoEnergy, PFR and the City of Warsaw.



MORE INFORMATION AT STARTUPGUIDE.COM





CONNECTING POLAND TO 20 INTERNATIONAL COMMUNITIES

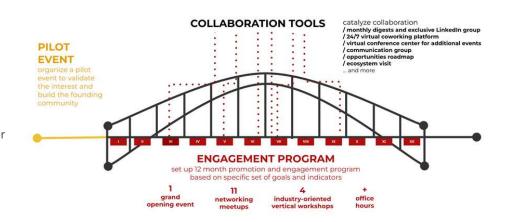
Warsaw is one of the most innovative cities in Europe, with a large and blooming startup community. Our goal is to create a platform for collaboration between Warsaw and other innovation communities. We believe that through increased engagement between the communities we can empower local ecosystems by exchanging the best practices and exchange access to resources.

First step

is an introduction event to check and build relations with the local ecosystem.

Second step

is to find key partners in the partner city and design the final shape of the program and secure resources for min. 12 months.



INTRODUCTION EVENTS

With our network and knowledge, we are able to organize introduction events to asses the potential of collaboration. After this assessment, we are working on the shape of a program bridging the communities and creating a platform for collaboration. In last 2 years we catalyse 13 connections gathering 2 254 people and 98 organizations. In 2022-2025 we are planning to lunch 20 permanent programs between communities.









2020

TORONTO
SYDNEY
MIAMI
ROTTERDAM
SEOUL
TOKYO
DUBLIN

2021

BUCHAREST TALLLINN CHICAGO NAIROBI TEXAS BRUSSELS













SOFT LANDING PROGRAM FOR BELARUSSIAN COMPANIES

In November 2020 all world heard about situation in Belarus. After blocking the internet signal more than 500 companies from tech industry wanted to learn how they can establish business in Poland.

Working together with the Polish Trade Investment Agency under the program "Poland. Business Harbour" we decided to launch a prototype of the Soft Landing program to help Belarusian companies. This was an inspiration to establish a permanent program at CIC Warsaw Innovation Center.

ONE OF THE PARTICIPANTS TESTIMONIAL

"I would like to share my opinion on the Softlanding Program. First of all, what I like is that every Monday each new attendee has an opportunity to introduce himself and present what he's doing.

The Softlanding Program is divided into several blocks related to Tax and Legal, Work Permit and Residency, Country intro, and Cities overview for doing business. I definitely can say this Program answered all my questions related to moving business to Poland. Especially I appreciate one-on-one Q&A sessions. During online meetings, the Presenter cannot answer some questions, which is ok and he will always return to you to answer your specific question later. I would like to thank all Organizers and Presenters for their hard work to help other people to make the decision to move to Poland and start their business."

Aliaksei Makarevich, CEO & Co-founder at OpiumDev











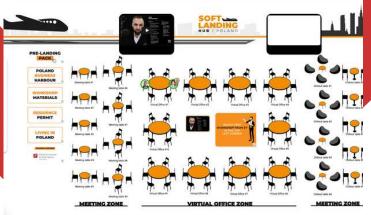


Land your business in the heart of EUROPE

Soft Landing is a dedicated programme run by Cambridge Innovation Center and partners to help foreign companies establish business in Poland and accelerate their growth.





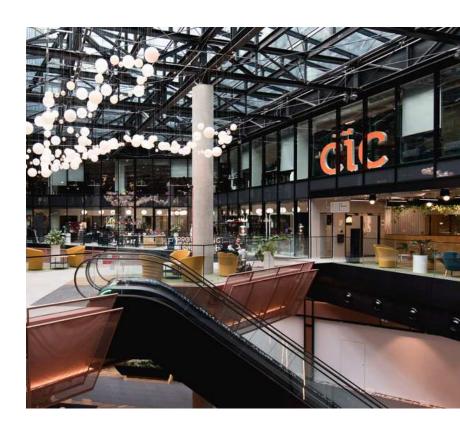


2022-2023 POLAND PRIZE PROGRAM WITH ŁODŹ SPECIAL ECONOMIC ZONE

The aim of the Poland Prize program organised by PARP is to strengthen the Polish startup ecosystem by transferring innovative ideas, business culture and talents from abroad and creating the image of Poland as the country of first choice in Central and Eastern Europe to conduct business for foreign startups.

Together with the leader of the program ŁODŹ SPECIAL ECONOMIC ZONE in 2022-2023 we will identify and help 36 startups, with grant support of up to 60k euros for each startup. And with that we will create a soft landing for the startups in Poland with our experience and knowledge. We want to make sure that launching in Poland would be a great choice for any future entrepreneur.

MORE INFORMATION
WWW.SSE.LODZ.PL/POLAND-PRIZE-RE SOURCE/



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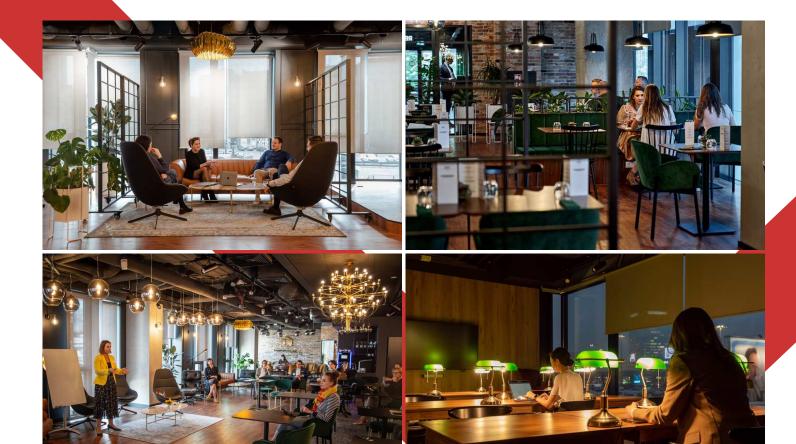
ABOUT TREND HOUSE

Trend House (TH) is an ecosystem clubhouse for innovation leaders, including inventors, artists, scientists, and entrepreneurs from various industry sectors.

Our mission is to connect forward-thinking individuals so that they may collaborate and form new business partnerships. Through our exclusive membership programs and events, we provide the tools needed to generate new ideas in a wide range of sectors.

Learn more at www.trendhouse.org





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CROSS-INDUSTRY COMMUNITY

Trend House is place for innovators and forward thinkers, and co-creation is at its heart. We aim to bring together outstanding people from around the world to meet, share insights, challenges and plans for creating a brighter future.

This hub is dedicated to inspire cross-industry conversation and assist idea sharing with the brightest minds.

Apply on www.trendhouse.org













































RESTAURANT FOR INNOVATORS

As something new and cool for trend house space we established a restaurant dedicated for innovation ecosystem leaders – MASTERMINDS. It is our passion to bring together the most interesting people from all over the world, who are shaping the future with us. Our business breakfast, lunch or dinner will make you feel comfortable with great food and an inspiring view on the collaboration.

In partnership with:





