10AM ISTANBUL TIME

**PRESS RELEASE**

**TAKE INVEST SUMMIT 2018**

***PART OF THE WORLD BUSINESS ANGELS INVESTMENT FORUM ANNUAL CONGRESS 2018***

19 February 2018, Monday

**The first stop on the roadshow of Startup Campus V4 is Istanbul, launched today at the World Business Angels Investment Forum.**

***The main objective of Startup Campus V4 is to boost the discoverability of the V4 regional startup ecosystem, specifically by highlighting the economic and innovation potential of the V4 countries (the Czech Republic, Hungary, Poland and Slovakia). At each event, 8 to 10 innovative startup companies operating in the V4 region are selected and given the opportunity to introduce themselves to international markets. The next destinations after Istanbul are Berlin, New York, Vienna, London, Hong Kong, Tel Aviv, Dubai and Los Angeles.***

On 19 – 20 February 2018, angel investors comes together in Istanbul at the annual conference of the World Business Angels Investment Forum with the goal of creating new ways for start-ups, scale-ups and high-growth businesses to access finance.

For the first time ever, the World Business Angels Investment Forum opens its doors to Start-ups, Scale-ups and High-growth businesses. WBAF is therefore allocating a special area within the World Business Angels Investment Forum’s World Congress 2018 in Istanbul where 50 start-up or scale-up or high-growth businesses will each have a 4-square-metre area to showcase their business. They will thus have exposure to highly qualified angel investors, family office executives, co-investment fund managers, angel investment group directors, corporate venture executives, accelerator executives, techno park investment directors and venture capitalists.The mission is to showcase the world’s top start-ups and scale-ups, which, typically, are funded companies in the process of raising €500K – €3M, with the aim of globalizing.

**The Visegrad Group**

’The Visegrad Group (also known as the ‘Visegrad Four’ or simply ‘V4’) reflects the efforts of the countries of the Central European region to work together in a number of fields of common interest within the all-European integration. The Czech Republic, Hungary, Poland and Slovakia have always been part of a single civilisation, sharing cultural and intellectual values and common roots in diverse religious traditions, all of which they wish to preserve and further strengthen. Hungary is the current term President of Visegrad Group. All the V4 countries aspired to become members of the European Union, perceiving their integration into the EU as another step forward in the process of overcoming artificial dividing lines in Europe through mutual support. They reached this aim on the first of May 2004, when they all became members of the EU.

**Startup Campus V4**

Easing access to finance is crucial for creating global success stories for the Visegrag Four countries, so they launched a startup programme called a ‘startup campus’. The main objective of the Startup Campus V4 is to boost the discoverability of the V4 regional startup ecosystem, specifically by highlighting the economic and innovation potential of the V4 countries. At each event, 8 to 10 innovative startup companies operating within the V4 region are selected and given the opportunity to introduce themselves to international markets. The first stop on the roadshow of Startup Campus V4 is Istanbul, launched today at the World Business Angels Investment Forum. The next destinations after Istanbul are Berlin, New York, Vienna, London, Hong Kong, Tel Aviv, Dubai and Los Angeles.

**Take Invest Summit 2018 as part of the WBAF World Congress 2018**

The WBAF Take Invest Summit 2018 will essentially be a co-investment platform for angel investors, start-ups, scale-ups and high-growth businesses.

The WBAF Take Invest Summit 2018 is a crucially important meeting point where carefully selected start-ups, scale-ups and high-growth businesses can connect with the most important angel investors, co-investment fund managers, VCs and private equities in the world.

Aside from presentations by renowned thought leaders in the field of entrepreneurship and global angel investors, the event will feature keynote speeches, fireside chats, presentations and panel discussions. Each one will offer important insights into the start-up ecosystem. The summit will be also an open learning space for entrepreneurs to increase their understanding of the investment strategies of angel investors, fund-raising strategies of successful entrepreneurs, term-sheet negotiation techniques, company valuations, due-diligence check-lists of global investors, and ways to access co-investment funds.

Key topics to be discussed during the Take Invest Summit include:

* The role of corporates in supporting angel-backed businesses to achieve global growth: Working with corporates to boost start-ups’ potential and to accelerate globalisation of companies
* Crowdfunding rules for global entrepreneurs: how to use crowdfunding to secure finance and convince angel investors
* Growing a billion-dollar global tech business: Steps from start-up to scale-up to unicorn
* The Altuntas Start-up Compass Theory: An entrepreneurial road map to success from start-up to scale-up to exit
* What is the importance of a good working entrepreneurial ecosystem for creating more liquidity for start-ups, easing access to finance for scale-ups, easing access to skills for angel investors and securing early exits for high-growth businesses?

**About the WBAF World Congress 2018 Istanbul**

Drawing together hundreds of the world’s top business leaders, WBAF 2018 will shape the global agenda of the world early and post-early stage equity markets in the year ahead. For the first time ever, The World Business Angel Investors Forum Annual Congress 2018, the world’s biggest annual gathering of early stage equity and investment markets, will have 5 important summits running concurrently and will host more than 1000 delegates from around the world.

The WBAF Annual Conference 2018 will focus on angel investors partnering with family offices and wealth management institutions. Start-ups, scale-ups and angel investors will be able to connect at the TAKE INVEST SUMMIT. The CEO-PRENEURSHIP SUMMIT will focus on transforming CEOs into angel investors, while the FINTECH SUMMIT will deal with issues of financial inclusion and ways to democratise access to finance. And don’t miss the opportunity to generate innovative ideas to mobilise private and public capital for the social good at the IMPACT INVESTMENT SUMMIT. WBAF will also salute the global successes of the year at the World Excellence Awards & VIP Gala Dinner at the Swissotel The Bosphorus Istanbul.

As a global organisation, the World Business Angels Investment Forum brings together key players of the equity market to discuss the benefits and challenges to the angel investment community’s achieving successful growth for their businesses and to discuss what more can be done to connect the early-stage market ecosystem.

Speaking ahead of the event, WBAF Chairman Baybars Altuntas comments:

“Building on the success of the 2017 World Business Angels Investment Forum (WBAF), this year’s forum will focus on the theme ‘Unlocking the Potential for Innovation: Angel Investors Partnering with Family Offices and Wealth Management Institutions.’

The discussions will explore how family offices and wealth management institutions can foster open innovation and deliver more business value through partnerships with angel investors, start-ups, scale-ups, high-growth businesses and SMEs.

“By working together across borders, with a common vision, and with these smart dynamics in mind, we are well placed to create positive change in the global economy.”

**ENDS**

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|  | **Editor’s Notes**EVENT AND SPEAKER DETAILS: Further details on the event, including the event agenda, speakers and proposed topics call all be found at http://www.wbaf2018.istanbul/ |
|  | **About the World Business Angels Investment Forum**The World Business Angels Investment Forum (WBAF) is an international organisation aiming to ease access to finance for businesses from start up to scale up, with the ultimate goal of generating more jobs and more social justice worldwide. It is committed to collaborating globally to empower world economic development by creating innovative financial instruments for innovators, startups, and SMEs. The Forum interacts with leaders in all areas of society, first and foremost in business and political spheres, to help assess needs and establish goals, bearing in mind that the public interest is of paramount importance. WBAF engages a wide range of institutions, both public and private, local and international, commercial and academic to help shape the global agenda.[www.wbaforum.org](http://www.wbaforum.org) |
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