

International collaboration initiatives in the field of startups and digital entrepreneurship: *Spain on the global stage*

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MINISTERIO
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Introduction

Spain, as a member of the European Union and the European Startup Nation Alliance, **has been helping emerging innovative companies at all stages of their development**, implementing various public policies aimed at supporting emerging companies and *scaleups* within its borders, with the aim to position Europe and its member states at the center of entrepreneurship.

Among its initiatives, the **Digital Decade Policy Program stands out**, with the aim of doubling, at least, the number of “unicorns” in the European Union by 2030 and guaranteeing that more than 90% of small and medium-sized businesses reach a basic level. digital intensity for that same date.



Main international initiatives: European scope

- **Enterprise Europe Network:** contact point for SMEs and start-ups looking for *mentoring services* and access to networks.

It constitutes one of the largest support networks for companies. Specifically, the network offers personalized support, facilitates alliances between the different agents that make up the ecosystem and offers advice on how to access financing.

1. Business consulting.

2. Technology transfer and innovation.

3. Access to financing.

4. Cross-border business cooperation.

5. Internationalization.

6. Business events and meetings.

- **Startup Europe:** an initiative that brings together high-tech start-ups, growing start-ups, investors, accelerators, business networks, universities and the media with the aim of driving collaboration, investment and growth of *start-ups* throughout the European Union.

The mission of Startup Europe is to position the European Union as a “Nation of Emerging Companies”, implementing good practices that facilitate the expansion of the companies that participate in this initiative beyond European borders.

The objective is to democratize the *startup* phenomenon so that European citizens have the opportunity to create their company successfully, regardless of the country where they reside. Among the success stories the following stand out:

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 **waynabox**

- **Innovation Radar:** initiative of the European Commission that was created with the main objective of identifying and promoting high-potential innovation within research and innovation projects supported by the European Union (EU).

1. Make known the innovative projects developed in the European Union.
2. Connect innovative people at national and European level.
3. Advise research personnel and innovators to reach the market with their innovation.
4. Raise awareness of the role of the European Union in funding innovative projects.

Innovation Radar is supported by **Dealflow.eu**, a platform that provides **support to high-potential innovative people identified by the initiative**. Since the implementation of the tool in 2018, the Spanish *startups* that have received the **Innovation Radar award** are:



- **Declaration “An European Union Approach to Startups and Scaleups”:** commitment signed by 19 Member States, which is presented as a comprehensive guide that will guide the initiatives and programs aimed at supporting start-ups and *scaleups* within the European Union.

The Declaration “An European Union Approach to Startups and Scaleups” seeks to achieve a series of objectives so that Europe becomes an attractive destination for emerging companies.

What does the strategy propose?



Guarantee centralized coordination of *startups* and *scaleups* in the European Union



Support the establishment and development of non-binding regulatory sandboxes



Promote debates for the creation of a general framework of the European Union



Implement links of the European *startup ecosystem* with other international ecosystems

Main international initiatives: Ibero-American scope

- **CYTED Programs**

Ibero-American Program of Science and Technology for Development, created by the governments of the Ibero-American countries, together with Spain and Portugal, to **promote cooperation in fields related to science, technology and innovation** with the objective of the harmonious development of Ibero-America.

The main objectives are:



Promote the integration of the Ibero-American Scientific and Technological Community



Promote the participation of business sectors in innovation processes



Strengthen the technological development capacity of Ibero-America



Promote the participation of research personnel

● IBEROEKA

Initiative within CYTED to support R&D projects between companies, universities and/or research centers between Latin America, Spain and Portugal.

This aims **to improve the competitiveness and productivity of entities** by carrying out projects that contribute to the **harmonious and sustainable development of Ibero-America**.

IBEROEKA promotes the development of innovative products, processes and services using advanced technologies to improve the productive sectors and the competitiveness of the participating regions.

Main characteristics of the program projects:

- Technological R&D projects are generated by the consortium itself.
- There are no predetermined technological areas.
- The project management, evaluation and financing process is decentralized.
- Projects must have a consortium of entities made up of at least two countries.
- The main objective of the project must be to generate an innovative product, process or service.
- The results of the projects are the property of the participating entities.

Conclusions

International collaboration initiatives in the field of startups and digital entrepreneurship, both at the European and Latin American levels, constitute a **comprehensive strategy for Spain**, strengthening its business ecosystem, encouraging innovation and promoting economic development.

From the European Business Network to programs like **Startup Europe**, the **Innovation Radar**, and the **"An European Union Approach to Startups and Scaleups"** Declaration, there is evident a comprehensive approach to foster collaboration, access to resources, and the internationalization of startups.

Furthermore, Spain's participation in initiatives such as the **CYTED and IBEROEKA Program** reflects its commitment to regional cooperation in Ibero-America, facilitating the exchange of knowledge, technologies and best practices between participating countries.

In short, these international collaboration initiatives are **essential to promote innovation, economic growth and sustainable development** in both Europe and Latin America.



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