



2017
MEMBERSHIP
PACKET

MESSAGE FROM THE STARTUP NATIONS EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

The Startup Nations community within the broader Global Entrepreneurship Network (GEN) is all about identifying policy levers that can unleash high impact entrepreneurship and innovation. The Startup Nations network is made up of policymakers and leaders of public-sector programs focused on exploring different regulatory changes and other policy ideas to help accelerate the growth of new and young firms in their economies.

This Startup Nations platform allows its members to:

- Share ideas about what is working and what is not in their respective environments;
- Connect to researchers in the field and communicate priorities to a Global Entrepreneurship Research Network (GERN) led by knowledge powerhouses like the Kauffman Foundation, World Bank and Endeavor Insight;
- Enable informal knowledge sharing among economies focused on leveraging entrepreneurs and their startups in order to create jobs, build economies and expand human welfare; and
- Share and solicit feedback on policy innovations.

We are keen to learn what all nations are focused on as we mutually work on new ways to help our new firms start and scale. If you are involved in public policy and program efforts to better enable high growth entrepreneurship and are interested in an open exchange of ideas and insightful research and data to guide smarter policymaking, this network is for you.



Jonathan Ortman
Co-Founder and Executive Committee Member

ABOUT STARTUP NATIONS

Startup Nations is a global network of policy-focused leaders working to create more entrepreneur-friendly policies and more efficient public sector-led programs to help startups launch and grow. It facilitates regular dialogue among:

- policymakers focused on increasing rates of new firm formation;
- leaders behind programs initiated or funded by the public sector;
- entrepreneurs communicating the need for policy changes; and
- analysts working to add rigor on outcomes using the best evidence, data and methods.

Startup Nations members seek innovative approaches to monitor and evaluate outcomes of efforts to foster high-impact entrepreneurship in any part of the world--learning from successes as well as failures. Members have the common purpose of candidly sharing their knowledge, making it accessible, useable and relevant to policymakers. Critical to their interactions is the recognition that policymakers can be open to experimentation.

Current members range from individuals designing and implementing programs that create immigration programs to attract entrepreneurial talent to those championing normative policy disruptions that help governments adapt regulations to an era of digital disruption. Startup Nations also engages strong city-level policy shapers that tackle similar ecosystem challenges at the local-level and often inspire action at the national-level.

As more startup-savvy individuals join government efforts, Startup Nations sets out to foster collaboration while sharing lessons learned and enhance new approaches to measure impact.

The Startup Nations concept originated in 2012 – from the leaders behind Global Entrepreneurship Week (GEW), Startup Canada and Startup Britain – and now has more than 60 nations as members.

PRINCIPLES OF STARTUP NATIONS

Startup Nations is at its core an organic and nimble network that promotes knowledge sharing and collaboration. To ensure value of membership, certain principles shared by the founding members serve as the core of the network's activities.

1. **Smarter policymaking**

At its core, Startup Nations is a network of startup-savvy policymakers seeking better evidence and tools for smarter policymaking and programming to support and strengthen entrepreneurship ecosystems.

The Startup Nations members both inform and are informed by research and policy work happening outside Startup Nations in places like the Kauffman Foundation, the World Bank, Endeavor, and in individual governments.

2. **Policy knowledge- and experience-sharing among members**

Startup Nations members tap into each other's knowledge about experimental results and make models available for replication by other locations represented in the Startup Nations network. Members make the basic commitment to share what they have learned about interventions (policy, programmatic, evaluation methods, or otherwise) that support their entrepreneurship communities via the [Startup Nations Atlas of Policies](#) (SNAP) and related discussions.

3. **Fostering evidence-based impact evaluation**

Startup Nations members believe they will be more effective when informed and armed by evidence-building efforts, such as the [Global Entrepreneurship Research Network \(GERN\)](#).

Startup Nations membership thus entails a commitment to assess whether programs in various startup ecosystems are performing or not, and a commitment to openness and candid experience sharing about program successes and failures.

STARTUP NATIONS ACTIVITIES

Startup Nations members meet in person twice a year:

1. In November, at the [Startup Nations Summit](#) (SNS), where SN members have their core members-only annual meeting. In 2014, South Korea hosted the Startup Nations Summit during GEW. In 2015, SNS took place in Monterrey, Mexico, under the auspices of the National Institute for the Entrepreneur (INADEM). In 2016, the Summit took place in Europe for the first time, with Cork Innovates as local partner in bringing the Summit to Ireland. In 2017, SNS will take place in Tallinn, Estonia.
2. In March, at the [Global Entrepreneurship Congress](#) (GEC) in March, where all GEN communities gather annually, and where Startup Nations members join their government leadership in the entrepreneurship Ministerial that takes place as part of the Congress.

However, members engage with their peers year around. They submit requests for feedback on policy tools they are developing or evaluating to all members through the collaboration platform on Slack. Only members have access to the Startup Nations private channel on Slack.

Members are also publically share ideas, developments in their initiatives, lessons learned, knowledge

and experiences using the [Startup Nations website](#) and the [Startup Nations Atlas of Policies](#) (SNAP) as platforms.

NETWORK COMPOSITION

Although Startup Nations seeks to avoid institutional lag, the following principles provide a method for efficient decision-making and a guide to value adding for each member.

Executive Committee members: These are members who in addition to knowledge sharing, also commit to bringing resources to facilitate the network and human capital for the Startup Nations activities, such as hosting and funding a Startup Nations Summit, and contributing to the development of the [Startup Nations Atlas of Policies](#) (SNAP).

Public-sector members: These members work inside public institutions and are driving an operational entrepreneurship initiative which can be outlined the Startup Nations Atlas of Policies (SNAP).

Private-sector members: External advisors to their governments or those who serve as implementing partners for government-driven startup support structures.

All Startup Nations members commit to:

- Abide by the three principles outlined above.
- Submit and periodically update their policy entries on the [Startup Nations Atlas of Policies](#) (SNAP).
- Send at least one guest blog posts per year on policy developments in their ecosystem for the Startup Nations website. See a sample, [here](#).
- Attend at least one in-person meeting per year. Limited funding is available for travel costs, so it is advisable that members budget in advance for travelling to the Startup Nations Summit and/or the Global Entrepreneurship Congress.

NEW MEMBERS

There is no cost to be a member and enjoy Startup Nations resources. However, participation in the network is by invitation only.

New members are invited into the network via referrals from those currently in the Startup Nations network, or based on evidence of policy focus in their work within entrepreneurship ecosystems. You may nonetheless request to be considered for membership by submitting information on one or more policy tools you are developing or implementing, via the [Startup Nations Atlas of Policies](#).

For additional information, see www.startupnations.co, or contact cristina@genglobal.org.