



STIFTERVERBAND

Bildung. Wissenschaft. Innovation.

Summary

GRÜNDUNGSRADAR 2018

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GRÜNDUNGSRADAR®

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SUMMARY

Institutions of higher education (HEIs) play a pivotal role for dynamic innovation activities as incubators for new ideas. One way of disseminating innovations, in the form of ideas, technologies and knowledge, into society is the launching of businesses through students and researchers. This requires an adequate climate for start-ups at higher education institutions. HEIs can shape this process by establishing funding for the formation of companies, support systems and raising awareness accordingly. Gründungsradar compares the profiles of HEIs in the area of start-up support and provides insights into the development of start-up culture at German HEIs.

GENERAL EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

- » Front-runners in the 2018 Gründungsradar are, amongst large HEIs, the Technical University of Munich; amongst mid-sized HEIs, the University of Oldenburg; and amongst the smaller HEIs the HHL Leipzig Graduate School of Management. All three, according to the indicators of this study, are exemplary role models for start-up support and have continuously achieved good results.
- » Positive development: The majority of HEIs has been able to improve start-up support since 2012, the average of points allotted in the Gründungsradar also showed a clear increase in comparison to 2016. Particularly in institutionalized start-up support at HEIs progress has been made since 2012. The area of start-up related events has also seen a great deal of activity: The formats have clearly become more diverse, integrating a variety of speakers with practical experience and increasingly the events by HEIs cover all topics related to start-up support.
- » Start-up support is a top-level issue: In 82 percent of HEIs – namely in 128 of 156 cases considered – the subject of start-ups is explicitly and noticeably assigned to a member of the universities' top-level management.

The explicit assignment of responsibility was emphasized by HEIs in the 2016 survey as one of the four main factors of success for effective start-up support.

- » Start-up support needs resources: In the coming years resource issues will particularly occupy HEIs. With the expiration of the funding line “EXIST – University-Based Business Start-Ups” and the end of the ERDF-funding period in 2020, important financial resources are disappearing on different levels.
- » Start-up support is primarily third-party funded: Three out of four euros in start-up support are sourced from third-party funds. In total 109 million euros were available for start-up support to those HEIs providing detailed information in the survey. Out of these approximately 82 million euros came from third-party funding, of which about 31 million euros were private third-party funding. A quarter of all participating HEIs do not have their own resources for start-up support. This dependence means that the end of programmes and funding periods such as the European Regional Development Fund (ERDF) in 2020 is even more important.
- » Appeals to politics: HEIs are appealing to politics for more financial support, particularly to bolster the foundation phase for start-ups. Furthermore funding should become permanently continued.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY START-UP ACTIVITIES

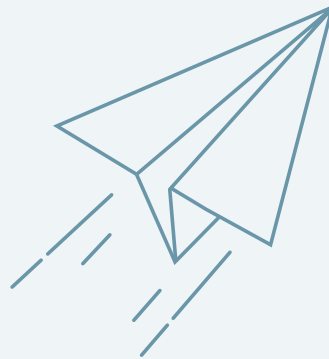
- » Increase in start-ups: The participating HEIs reported 1.776 start-ups founded at their institutions in 2017. For those 72 HEIs participating in both this year’s and the 2012 survey, a clear increase from 837 to 1.173 start-ups can be seen. Furthermore the number of start-ups per student has increased by 26 percent since 2012.
- » Students and graduates are the driving force behind HEI spin-offs: In more than half of the start-ups graduates are involved; students in 43 percent, people external to HEIs in a quarter and researchers are participating in roughly every fifth start-up.
- » HEI spin-offs occur in fields with relevance for the future and value for society: Of the surveyed start-ups, 434 start-ups can be attributed to the IT-service sector, 105 start-ups to the medical technology sector and 57 start-ups to the environmental, climate and energy technology sector. Start-ups supervised at HEIs in 17 percent are based on specific intellectual property, like patents. Start-ups are listed as limited companies make up 45 percent of the sample.
- » Entrepreneurs are loyal to their regions: In three out of four cases start-ups stay – at least initially – in the vicinity of their HEI and thus strengthen the region.
- » Start-up support is also worthwhile for the HEIs themselves: HEIs that perform well in the ranking tend to name more positive effects resulting from start-up support, such as positive effects in knowledge and technology transfer, opportunities for cooperation in research and development (R&D) or opportunities for cooperation in teaching.
- » The HEIs and founders have submitted applications to more than 70 different funding programmes. For the EXIST research transfer funding line alone, 134 applications were submitted and for the EXIST start-up grant as many as 352.

START-UP SUPPORT IN NUMBERS



767

with knowledge or
technology transfer
from HEIs



740

with individuals from
the STEM field



232

based on specific
intellectual property

1,776

start-ups occurred
2017 in total



702

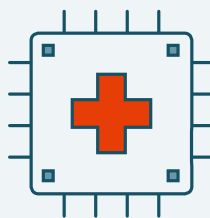
as limited companies

HOW MANY START-UPS OCCURED PER SECTOR

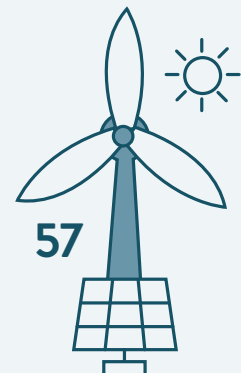


IT-based Services

105



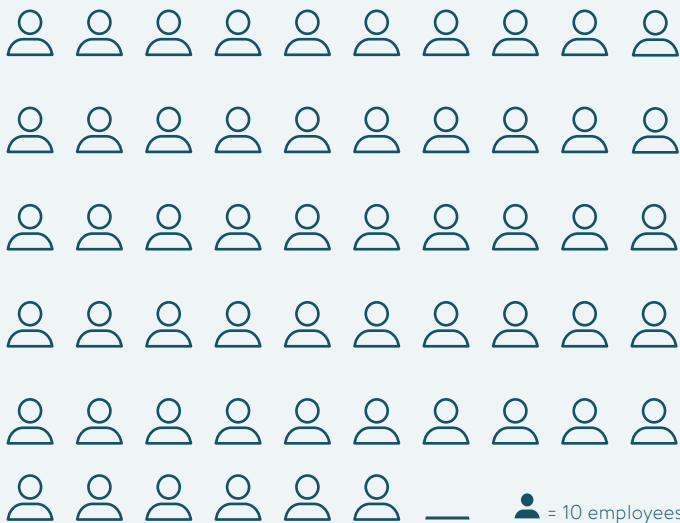
Medical Technology/
e-Health/mHealth/
Health Applications



Environmental,
Climate and Energy
Technology

561

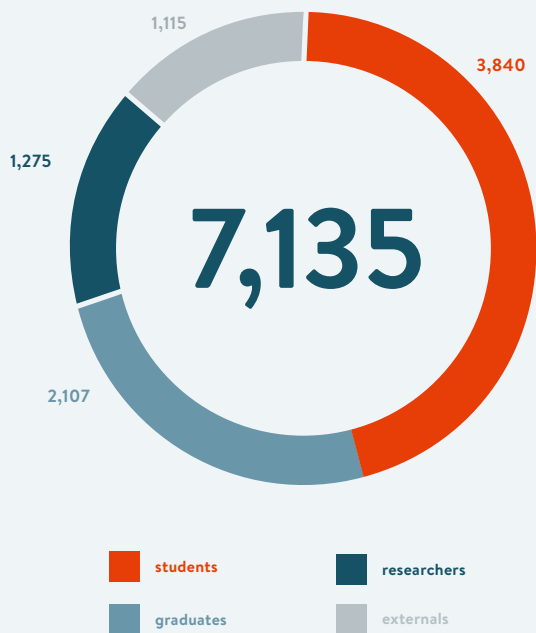
employees in full-time equivalents in start-up support



FINANCIAL RESOURCES IN START-UP PROMOTION



NUMBER OF START-UP PROJECTS



* Total number of start-up projects and total number of start-up projects by group differ due to team structures.

13%



of HEIs are participants in companies

78%



of start-ups remain within the region

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