



Inspiring
Global Change
Through
Entrepreneurship

IMPACT REPORT

EUROPEAN INNOVATION ACADEMY

**“...COMBINING
ENTREPRENEURIAL
LEARNING WITH AN
UNPARALLELED
INTERNATIONAL
EXPERIENCE”.**

**“AFTER
PARTICIPATING
IN EIA, I FEEL
BOTH EXCITED
AND CONFIDENT
ABOUT
STARTING MY
OWN
BUSINESS”.**

WHAT IS EIA?

In 2013, a bold vision emerged: to create a global platform where future entrepreneurs could transform ideas into impactful ventures. The European Innovation Academy (EIA), a non-profit educational institution, was founded to bring this vision to life, combining entrepreneurial learning with an unparalleled international experience.

Over the past decade, EIA has empowered more than **25,000 aspiring entrepreneurs** through 25 programs held across nine countries, including **Italy, Qatar, China, Hong Kong, France, Portugal, Estonia, and Georgia**, as well as through online platforms. Each program immerses participants in a vibrant, hands-on environment designed to foster innovation and collaboration.

At the heart of EIA's success lies its unique methodology, developed in partnership with experts from **UC Berkeley, Stanford University, and Google**. This approach equips participants with the tools, frameworks, and mentorship to take ideas from conception to realization.

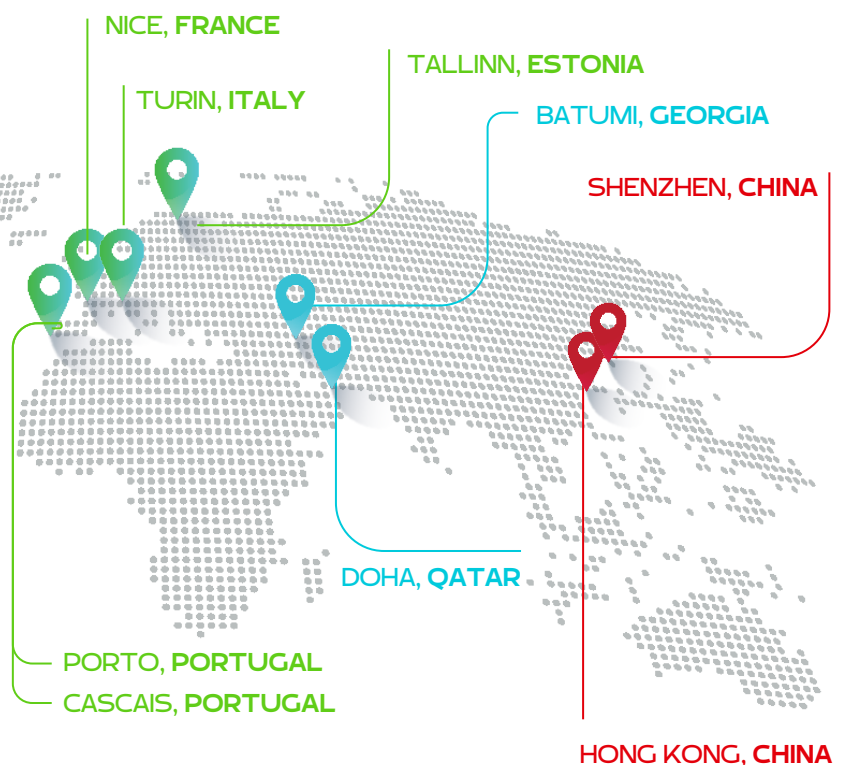
EIA's reach extends to **80 partner universities** around the globe, including world-renowned institutions such as **UC Berkeley, the University of Porto, the University of Exeter, the Chinese University of Hong Kong, and the Eindhoven University of Technology**. Industry mentors and speakers from leading companies like **Google, Disney, Amazon, Meta, and Microsoft** further enhance the program, sharing insights that shape the entrepreneurial journeys of EIA participants.

EIA's partnerships form a cornerstone of its mission, bridging the gap between **local communities, corporations, and educational institutions**. Collaborations with global organizations like **Google, Amadeus, Daimler, Ferrero, Santander, USAID, and Galp** create a network of support and opportunity. These alliances strengthen the connection between academic knowledge, corporate expertise, and local impact, ensuring that EIA programs benefit both participants and the communities they engage with.

EUROPEAN INNOVATION ACADEMY

EIA's contributions have been widely celebrated. Recognized by the **Financial Times**, **Google**, and European policymakers as one of the top 100 digital pioneers in Europe, EIA continues to lead the way in entrepreneurial education, shaping the next generation of innovators and changemakers.

This report celebrates EIA's decade-long journey, showcasing its transformative impact on participants and their ventures. Through 5 chapters, it highlights EIA's unique methodology, program outcomes, and contributions to global goals like the **Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)**. By exploring these dimensions, the report underscores EIA's commitment to driving innovation, economic growth, and sustainable impact worldwide.



FINANCIAL
TIMES



☆
EUROPEAN
INNOVATION
ACADEMY

VISION

Nurture **100 MILLION** entrepreneurs by 2033.

MISSION

Empower and inspire a global community of innovators, transforming bold dreams into impactful realities.

VALUES

Empower for 10X Impact

Empower individuals and communities to ambitiously pursue a 10X impact through sustainable growth and collaborative efforts.

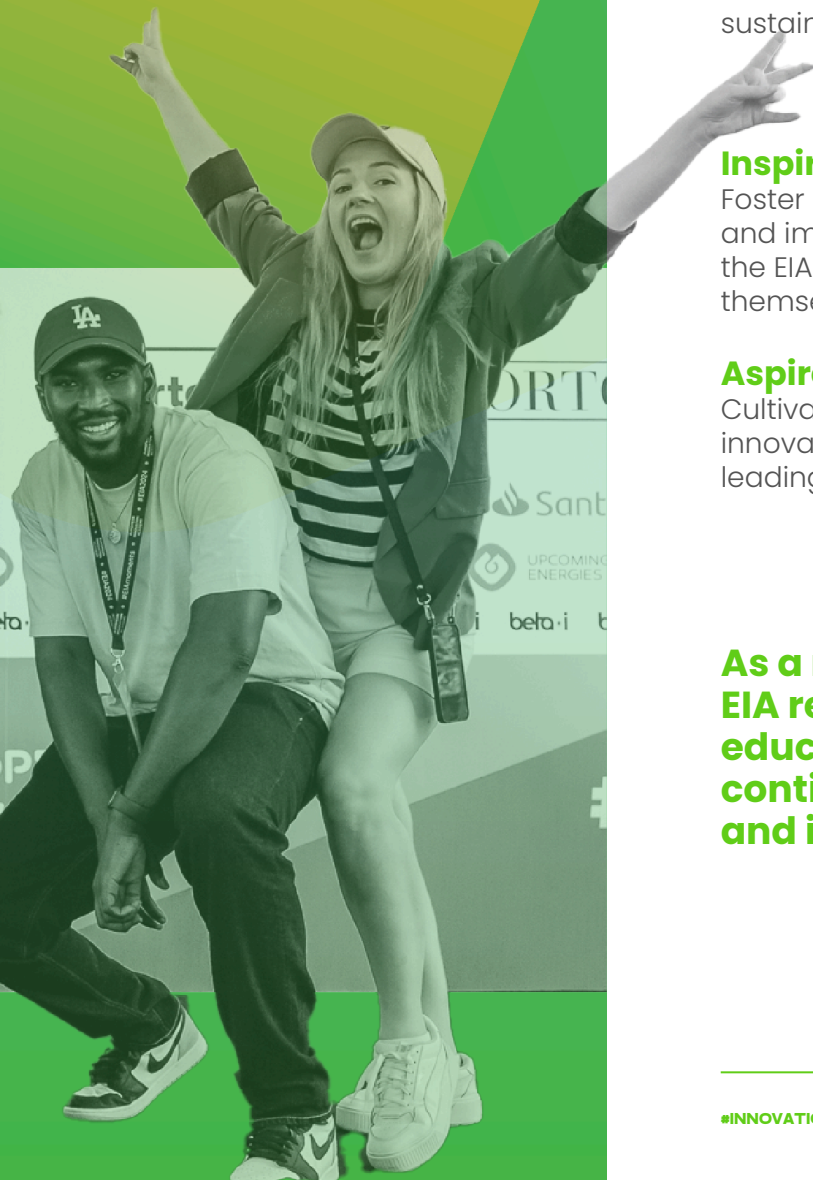
Inspire Innovation

Foster a culture of continuous learning, curiosity, and improvement, encouraging every member of the EIA community to become the best version of themselves.

Aspire to Transform

Cultivate a spirit of entrepreneurship that embraces innovation, experimentation, and visionary thinking, leading to transformational change.

As a non-profit organization, EIA reinvests all earnings into educational initiatives, ensuring continuous growth and impact.



EUROPEAN INNOVATION ACADEMY

40%

EIA alumni become founders

32000

Jobs created

2.2 BLN USD

Post-program funds raised

111

Exits by alumni

33% SURVIVAL RATE

of the startups continue
idea developed at EIA



78%

received financial
support

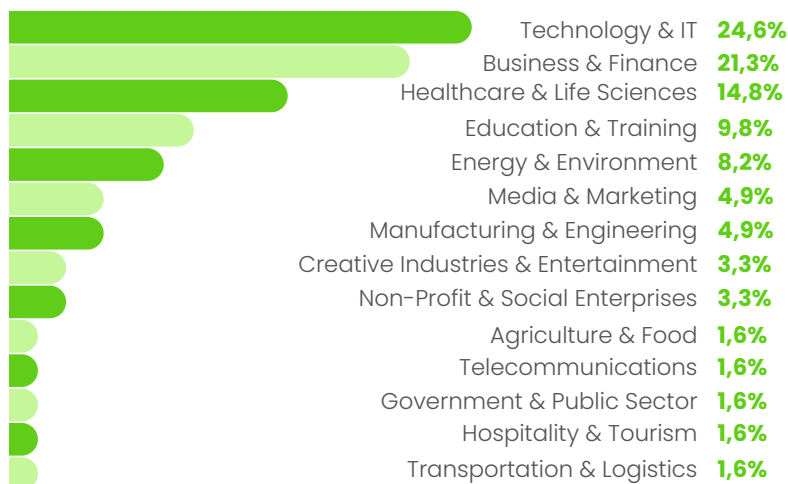
According to the alumni
survey,

**78% of all EIA participants
have received some kind of
financial support** to attend
the program.

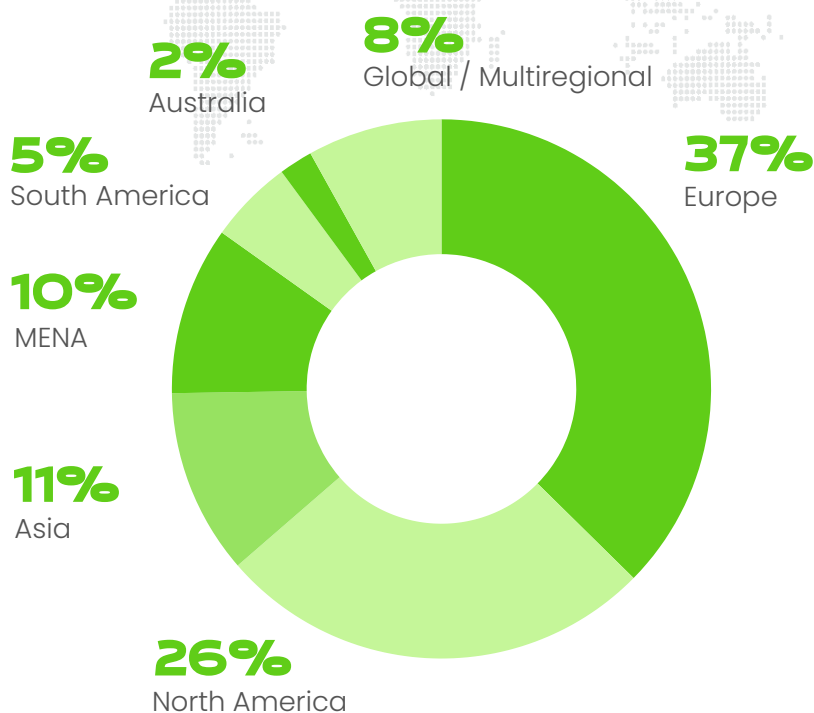
**86% of them stated that they
would have been unable to
participate** in the program
otherwise.

10 YEARS OF IMPACT

INDUSTRY BREAKDOWN



REGIONAL BREAKDOWN OF OPERATING STARTUPS



4 QUALITY
EDUCATION



8 DECENT WORK AND
ECONOMIC GROWTH



9 INDUSTRY, INNOVATION
AND INFRASTRUCTURE



10 REDUCED
INEQUALITIES



17 PARTNERSHIPS
FOR THE GOALS



EIA SUPPORTS SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS

THE GLOBAL GOALS For Sustainable Development

EIA has educated over 25,000 participants from 85+ countries globally, ensuring inclusive and equitable access to hands-on entrepreneurial education that bridges the gap between theory and practice and equips participants with real-world professional skills.

Startups launched by EIA alumni have **significantly contributed to job creation and economic growth**. EIA empowers individuals to create economic opportunities, promoting sustainable growth.

EIA partners with tech companies like Google and Microsoft to **foster innovation, develop resilient infrastructure**, and enhance participants' capabilities to contribute to modern industry standards.

EIA enables **equitable access to entrepreneurial education** and creates a platform for inclusive innovation.

EIA **collaborates with numerous universities, local municipalities, companies and organizations worldwide**, creating a robust network that supports sustainable development through shared knowledge and resources.

★ EUROPEAN INNOVATION ACADEMY

BY COMBINING
THESE UNIQUE
ELEMENTS, EIA
EMPOWERS THE
NEXT GENERATION
OF ENTREPRENEURS
TO NAVIGATE THE
CHALLENGES OF
STARTUP CREATION
WITH CONFIDENCE
AND CLARITY.



WHAT MAKES EIA BOOTCAMPS UNIQUE?

EIA bootcamps are designed for **college students and young professionals** who are ready to take their first steps into the entrepreneurial world. With a strong focus on **early-stage startups**, the program provides a transformative learning experience that equips participants with the skills, mindset, and confidence to turn ideas into real ventures.

INTERNATIONAL

EIA brings together participants from **different nationalities (75+)**, fostering a global ecosystem where diverse cultural perspectives drive innovation and collaboration.

MULTIDISCIPLINARY

Students from **all academic backgrounds**—including business, technology, engineering, life sciences, and design—come together to form teams and collaborate. By combining their unique skills and perspectives, they tackle challenges from multiple angles, enabling them to develop well-rounded solutions for **early-stage startups**.

EXPERIENTIAL

The program takes participants through **every step of the venture creation process** in a hands-on, practical way. Students carry out real experiments, starting with **ideation**, moving through **problem validation, customer validation, prototyping, and campaign launch**, and culminating in a **final pitch to investors**. This approach ensures participants gain firsthand experience in building a startup from the ground up, bridging the gap between theory and real-world practice.

MENTORSHIP

EIA provides access to **300 world-class mentors and industry leaders**, who offer daily guidance, feedback, and expert insights. These mentors play a critical role in equipping participants with the tools, strategies, and mindset needed to bring their ideas to life.

EIA'S ROLE IN THE INNOVATION ECOSYSTEM

EDUCATING ENTREPRENEURS

Hands-on learning, startup creation,
and innovation mindset

BRIDGING ACADEMIA AND INDUSTRY

Partnerships with 500+
universities and industry leaders

DRIVING STARTUP CREATION

\$2.2B funding raised,
32,000+ jobs created

BUILDING INCLUSION

Scholarships and programs
for underrepresented groups

FOSTERING GLOBAL COLLABORATION

Connecting 85+ countries
and global mentors

PROMOTING SUSTAINABILITY

Scaling education
and nurturing 100M entrepreneurs by 2033



**CORE
MISSION**

**EMPOWERING
INNOVATORS AND
DRIVING GLOBAL
IMPACT**

DIVERSITY AND ACCESSIBILITY

In 2024, EIA hosted 46 mentors, 370 students from 47 nationalities, representing 61 universities worldwide, in Porto, Portugal.



46
mentors



370
students

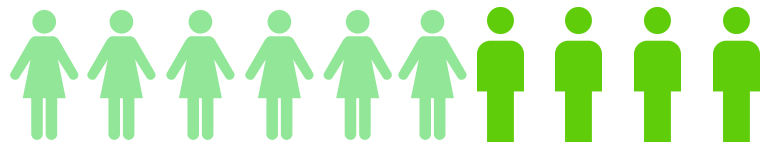


47
nationalities



61
universities worldwide

GENDER BREAKDOWN



52%

of participants
were female

48%

of participants
were male

NATIONALITY BY REGION

51.8%

North America

3.6%

Latin America & Caribbean

34.8%

Europe

1.6%

MENA

9.1%

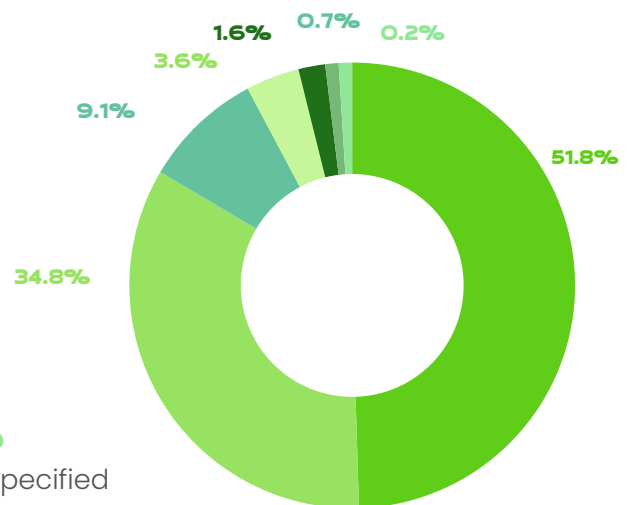
Asia

0.7%

Sub-Saharan Africa

0.2%

Other / Unspecified



FIELDS OF STUDIES



Engineering



Arts



Computer Science



Medicine



Marketing



Business



Economics

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FOSTERING QUALITY EDUCATION

71

international, multidisciplinary
teams were formed

99%

of the cohort **completed**
the program

100%

of the participants **earned**
a grade of B or higher,
reflecting their ability to:

- Understand the problem
- Develop a solution based on validated experiments
- Design a minimum viable product (MVP)
- Showcase initiative, motivation, and entrepreneurial skills
- Validate product-market fit
- Deliver a pitch
- Exhibit good problem-solving and teamwork skills
- Complete the full program



4.1/5



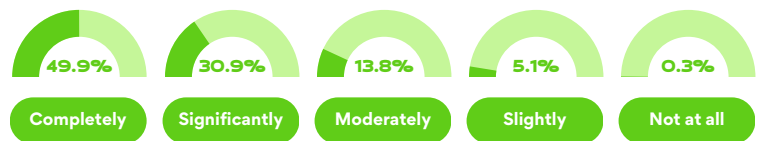
participants **satisfaction**
rating

99%

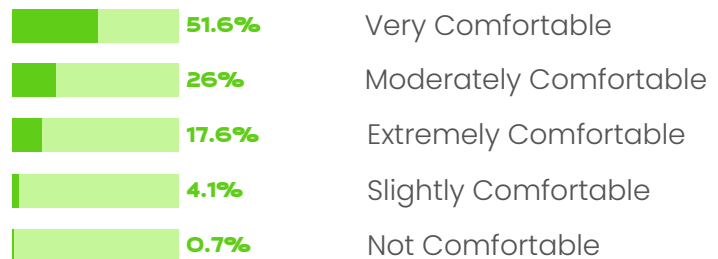


reported a **positive shift in**
entrepreneurial mindset immediately
following the program.

“How much has the EIA
Porto program **positively**
changed your
entrepreneurial
mindset?”



”How comfortable do
you feel with taking
calculated risks after
attending EIA?”



“It was **an amazing experience unlike any other** where I got to really challenge myself in thinking creatively.

”I now feel that I have the **awareness of how to effectively turn an idea into a company**. This is highly relevant and beneficial as I will be starting a company in the future.

EUROPEAN INNOVATION ACADEMY

56%

intending to **start their own business in the near future.**



higher scores in **innovativeness and proactiveness**



EIA participants place higher importance on **teamwork, risk-taking, and decisiveness** than having a good business idea or motivation[2]

ECONOMIC GROWTH THROUGH ENTREPRENEURSHIP

EIA equips participants with the confidence, skills, and mindset to thrive as entrepreneurs and innovators. From the moment they complete the program, alumni report an immediate boost in their confidence and preparedness to tackle entrepreneurial challenges^[1], **56% of them intending to start their own business in the near future.** Further so, EIA participants demonstrated significantly higher scores in innovativeness (5.79) and proactiveness (5.08) than the global averages (5.05 and 4.50)[1]. Skills like leadership, communication, and teamwork emerge as transformative tools, shaping their ability to turn ideas into impactful ventures.

To understand the **long-term impact of EIA on participants' career paths and entrepreneurial journeys**, we conducted our inaugural alumni survey in November 2024. The results illustrate how EIA fosters entrepreneurship and career success while driving global economic growth.

[1][2] Shown by the research studies conducted by [Brandt \(2023\)](#) and [Taggar et al. \(2024\)](#).



PATH TO ENTREPRENEURSHIP

The alumni survey revealed that

40% of alumni launched startups following their EIA experience.



1 in 3 startups originated from EIA business ideas

62% of the **startups are launched within a year** after EIA

COLLECTIVELY,
EIA ALUMNI VENTURES
HAVE:

2.2 BLN Raised over \$2.2 billion USD in funding.

32 K Created more than 32,000 jobs globally.



of respondents believe EIA significantly **prepared them for their careers, equipping them with the skills and mindset** necessary to navigate today's dynamic professional landscape.



Notably, 40% of respondents have gone on to **start their own businesses**.



AMONG THESE:

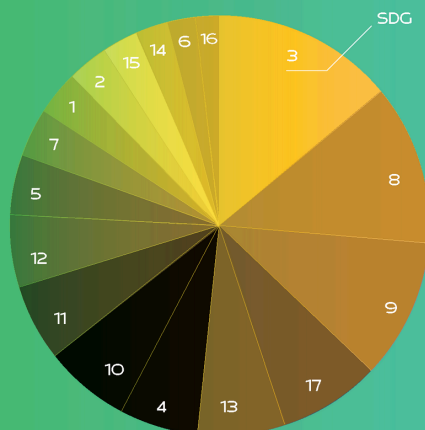
33% of ventures were **based on ideas developed during the EIA program**, demonstrating the direct application of the bootcamp's experiential approach.

64% of these **businesses are still active**, indicating sustainability and resilience in their operations.

90% of alumni-founded businesses were **launched within 1-3 years of attending EIA**, highlighting the program's role as a catalyst for entrepreneurial action.

DRIVING GLOBAL IMPACT

EIA alumni ventures tackle critical societal challenges, demonstrating a strong commitment to **sustainability and impact**.



- 14% SDG 3: Good Health and Well-being
- 12% SDG 8: Decent Work and Economic Growth
- 11% SDG 9: Industry, Innovation, and Infrastructure
- 8% SDG 17: Partnerships for the Goals
- 7% SDG 13: Climate Action
- 6% SDG 4: Quality Education
- 6% SDG 10: Reduced Inequalities
- 6% SDG 11: Sustainable Cities and Communities
- 5% SDG 12: Responsible Consumption and Production
- 4% SDG 5: Gender Equality
- 4% SDG 7: Affordable and Clean Energy
- 3% SDG 1: No Poverty
- 3% SDG 2: Zero Hunger
- 3% SDG 15: Life on Land
- 2% SDG 14: Life Below Water
- 2% SDG 6: Clean Water and Sanitation
- 2% SDG 16: Peace, Justice, and Strong Institutions

***“SINGLE BEST
DECISION AS
A YOUNG
ENTREPRENEUR.
CHANGED THE
COURSE OF MY
ENTIRE LIFE”.***

(Alumni 2013)

***“IT SIMPLY
CHANGED MY
MINDSET.
IT EMPOWERED ME
TO BELIEVE IN
MYSELF AND MY
SKILLS MORE THAN
ANY OTHER
EXPERIENCES I HAD
AT THAT POINT OF
MY LIFE”.***

(Alumni 2018)

CAREER IMPACT

Even for alumni who pursued careers outside entrepreneurship, the EIA experience has been transformative:

- **33%** have contributed to the development of new products, services, or innovations within their organizations, demonstrating the ripple effect of entrepreneurial thinking across industries.
- **44%** credit EIA for helping them secure jobs, earn promotions, or ascend to leadership roles. These statistics underline the program's versatility, fostering career growth both within entrepreneurial ventures and in traditional professional paths.

SKILLS & MINDSET TRANSFER

EIA is widely regarded by its alumni as a transformative experience, providing not only clarity on career paths, but also equipping them with a robust entrepreneurial toolkit that continues to shape their professional lives.

Survey results show that **97% of respondents have continued using the skills acquired during the program** in their current careers. These skills—ranging from ideation and problem-solving to innovation processes—are seen as invaluable in navigating the complexities of modern business environments. **A remarkable 97% of alumni also feel confident in adapting to changing business landscapes and challenges using the skills they gained at EIA.**

Additionally, **80% of respondents stated they have continued to develop their entrepreneurial skills**, demonstrating the program's enduring influence on their professional growth. Alumni frequently highlight career clarity, leadership development, and an enhanced ability to drive innovation as some of the most significant takeaways from EIA.

This alignment of skills and mindset with adaptability and innovation underscores EIA's mission to create not only entrepreneurs but also transformative leaders equipped to thrive in dynamic environments.

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EIA ALUMNI ACHIEVEMENTS

Jonathan Regev – EIA 2013

CEO and co-founder of The Farmer's Dog | Raised 150M USD funding | Forbes 30 Under 30

Fred Krieger – EIA 2013

CEO and founder of Scoro | Raised over 200M USD funding

Bailey Farren – EIA 2017

CEO and co-founder of Perimeter | Forbes 30 Under 30 | raised 6M USD

Esteban Veintimilla – EIA 2017

Co-founder and CEO of IMentor | acquired by QS

Lukas Renz – EIA 2017

Austria Co-founder of HydroSolid | Austrian winner in the i2B competition | Seal of Excellence by the European Union | Forbes 30 Under 30

Danny Tran – AIA 2018

Founder and CEO of Hightstokes | has generated 25M USD in revenue

Rodrigo Val d'Oleiros e Silva – EIA 2019

Founder of Orgavalue | Forbes 30 Under 30 Portugal | winner of the Catalyst Award from the U.S. National Academy of Medicine | winner EIT InnoStars Awards

Nini Fan – EIA 2019

CEO and co-founder of Mamome | awarded 300K USD grant

Francisco Maria Calisto – EIA 2023

Co-founder of BreastScreening-AI | WIPO nominee | Winner of the TEF-Health competition

EXPANDING
ACCESS THROUGH
GLOBAL
ALLIANCES

LOCAL
FOUNDATIONS
FOR GLOBAL
IMPACT

EDUCATING YOUTH, INSPIRING INNOVATION: COLLABORATE WITH EIA

Partnerships are at the heart of EIA's mission to nurture 100 million entrepreneurs by 2033. With **over 25,000 entrepreneurs educated across 10 countries**, EIA's success is fueled by collaborations with the OSCE, municipalities, universities, and private companies. These alliances create thriving ecosystems where young innovators transform bold ideas into impactful realities.

EIA's partnership with the OSCE **broadens access to entrepreneurial education** through scholarships for underrepresented students, fostering diversity and addressing global challenges. Looking ahead, EIA aims to collaborate with global organizations to integrate innovation into economic development frameworks, **reinforcing entrepreneurship as a driver of social impact**.

Cities like Porto, Turin and Nice show how municipalities can evolve into innovation hubs by hosting EIA programs. These partnerships strengthen local economies by creating jobs, supporting startups, and enhancing the region's entrepreneurial profile. Expanding entrepreneurial education in schools and deepening ties with local businesses will further amplify these efforts.





UNIVERSITIES AS CATALYSTS FOR INNOVATION

CORPORATE PARTNERS DRIVING REAL-WORLD SOLUTIONS

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS AND CALL TO ACTION

Host institutions, including the **University of Porto, Politecnico di Torino, Université Côte d'Azur, Carnegie Mellon University in Qatar and NOVA SBE** play a key role in nurturing local innovation ecosystems. For example, the University of Porto, which has supported over 600 startups, uses EIA to further equip students with multicultural, real-world entrepreneurial skills.

EIA programs enrich university curricula, offer academic credits, and expose faculty and students to cutting-edge practices, boosting institutional leadership in innovation and education globally.

Companies like **Santander, Galp, and Google** bring vital resources—funding, mentorship, and expertise—to EIA programs. These partnerships empower participants to solve real-world challenges while giving companies access to top-tier entrepreneurial talent. Strengthening private sector collaborations will further advance entrepreneurship and industry goals.

EIA extends its deepest gratitude to the OSCE, municipalities, universities, corporate sponsors, and our dedicated team for their unwavering support.

Together, we have empowered thousands of innovators. We invite current and future partners to deepen their engagement and help us build a global community of entrepreneurs, transforming bold dreams into lasting impact.

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#INNOVATIONSTARTSHERE

☆
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INNOVATION
ACADEMY**