Warsaw Accelerator for technology startups (WAW.ac) aims at accelerating companies of various size and business type within the scope of areas such as life science, energy, IoT, electronics and IT. The program bases on a long-term experience of Andrzej Kuśmierz PhD. (program founder and leader) as well as on a diversified knowledge and practice of more than one hundred mentors engaged in the program accordingly to participants needs. We are determined to be always one step ahead of the lifestyle and set practices of business growth.

We have laid **distinctive values** at the core of WAW.ac:

- We collect inspiration and best practices from the most effective programs around the world (e.g. StartX at Stanford University),
- We concentrate on fostering a lasting business value and competitive advantage,
- We do not give money as awards for best pitch; every cent must be the result of justified business opportunity and hard work,
- We focus on companies with reliable teams, products or technologies rather than startup lifestyle,
- We care about increasing social capital.

Within four editions of the program we hosted more than 50 companies from Poland, Germany, USA, UK and Switzerland. Although the official acceleration has ended, we keep in touch and support them as we can.

Watch the final event: https://www.facebook.com/warsawaccelerator/videos/864417473689723/
Find us on Facebook: https://www.facebook.com/warsawaccelerator/
Website: www.waw.ac
Articles: INN:Poland ; other media

ABOUT WAW.ac

Why – to make change!
We have founded Warsaw Accelerator in order to give a regular form to our academic, entrepreneurial and scientific efforts. With a rich background and wide international network, we have decided to make every endeavor to promote great people working on great projects and make them change the lives of our children.

How we make success to happen?
Jointly with mentors we observe participants needs and ponder over the individual strategy of business development. We strive to work with the best professionals and scientists involving their diversified skills and knowledge to best benefit our participants.

Graduates of the program remain with full access to our competences and contacts. Forever. Together we are building a wider community based on true and verified relationships. We jointly develop perspective projects to invest in and scale up.

We prefer engineering projects combined with IT like smart data, medtech or life science but we stay open to the submissions that may attract and answer the needs of the Partners of the program.

What do we give?

Unique experience which forces our participants to change which, as they all agree is a change for better. They are becoming more confident, not afraid of prototyping and testing, more outgoing. Besides knowledge and competences, they also can receive financing from our Partners, trusted business angels as well as from investment funds we are in touch with. We draw attention that money always comes with knowledge and support.

How it works?

Although we receive submissions from different places, Warsaw remains our main place of meetings and workshops. We often use our Partners' spaces who attach importance to developing prospective projects and startups inside their company.

Each edition lasts five months. First we ask candidates to submit an online application form that is later assessed by WAW.ac team, mentors and Partners and results in a selection of about eight projects. Selected participants meet at the first stage of the program – **Sprint Workshops**. It is an intensive, 4-day workshop divided into specific business areas (sales, finances, IP, project management, PR, product design, business processes and other).

Two weeks later all participants meet on a **Matchmaking Day** which is a closed presentation of their projects. With all mentors and Partners as the audience, participants introduce their strong and weak areas of business while we match mentors with projects to mach their specific needs. We focus on radical collaboration.

After at least 3-month period of individual cooperation with mentors (**Marathon**) the program is concluded at the **Final Gala**. This event is not a pitching contest for the best presentation. It is designed to show the progress of the participants and sum up all the work done. Additionally we organize special courses for all participants concerning their common skills that need improvement.

Collaboration with WAW.ac

Within four editions we created a strategic partnership with Deutsche Telekom (hub:raum), Intel, Microsoft, Adamed, Innogy Poland, Black Pearls VC and the city of Warsaw.

Strategic Partners may define their areas of preferences and participate in projects selection process. Partners have the right to suggest a "special" participant of their choice as long as other assessors raise no objections. Partners benefit from program communication strategy which consists of traditional and social media stream, other online tools and special events (Matchmaking, Final Gala). Strategic Partners **donate to the program with an amount of 60.000 PLN** since the access to our program is free of charge for the participants.

Our goal is to grow and strengthen our position as the leading acceleration program supporting businesses of various size and discipline. Right now we are looking to create and manage a bigger working space for our projects. We want to develop a place with a constant flow of new projects, with great working conditions and where our support would be most effective.

We kindly invite you to build business value together with Warsaw Accelerator team.

Sincerely

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