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Catalan entrepreneurship

According to "[StartupCity Hubs in Europe](#)", the report carried out by the think tank "Mind the bridge" which is based on an analysis of Big Data from 476 European cities, the European trend of concentration of scaleups is that they are located in one city per country, except Spain, Italy, Switzerland and Cyprus.

In Spain the GDP is "distributed in some 20 cities mainly", but in what refers to the new economy, this is not the case, and only "two stand out in the new economy, Madrid and Barcelona", according to Isidro Laso, the director of the initiative 'Startup Europe' of the European Commission.

Madrid concentrates 1.8 of the entrepreneurial rate and Barcelona 2.7, while Berlin tops the European list with 6.1.

In turn, Seville and Malaga are below 1, with a rate of 0.4 and 0.3 respectively.

This means that in **Barcelona the concentration of startups is 270% higher than what would correspond to their GDP** and also, their GDP is greater than what corresponds to their population.

More info: [La Vanguardia](#)

Approved in technology, suspended in finance

Barcelona has become a reference in the technological field, but it is far from having a leading position in the financial segment

- Currently London is a fintech capital in Europe (although the United Kingdom leaves the European Union)
- That is why a dozen fintech firms will be located in Spain after the Brexit to operate in the European Union
- Most of them will be installed in Madrid and not in Barcelona, largely due to the Catalan political crisis

PDS2 - Payments Services Directive

- With PDS2, companies of the sector expect intermediary companies to be able to access, with the consent of their clients, all of their financial information in the different entities to be able to provide a greater variety of offers in credits and mortgages.

The sector expects the emergence of new startup fintech in the coming months.

One of the weak points of Spain to attract new financial companies operating from the country is the slowness and the insecurity in the terms to obtain a license.

More info: [Expansión](#) 18th of December 2018

Ship2B holds multiple open calls for 2019 acceleration programs

Spain's only private, not for profit accelerator focused on social impact, Ship2B, is holding multiple open calls for its accelerator programs including Tech4Climate, Tech4Social, Tech4Health.

- [Tech4Climate](#) is holding its open call until **February 10, 2019**.
- Tech4Climate selects the best projects that want to go beyond economic profitability, seeking to positively impact society through the improvement of the environment, favoring sustainability, quality of life and healthy environments.
- [Tech4Social](#), is an innovation and social impact lab that improves the quality of life of elderly people and people with disabilities through technology. The call is open till **February 10, 2019**.
- [Tech4Health](#) is the investment and acceleration platform for startups in the health sector, and it is holding its open call until **February 10, 2019**.

The Ship2B programs offer strategic alliances with large companies in the sector, mentoring, opportunities to present your startup to a network of investors with more than 400 members, and access to the Equity4Good investment vehicle that **provides €4 million** to invest in impact startups.

More info: [Novobrief](#)

Barcelona and Telefónica launch The ThinX: 5G technologies Lab.

5G Alliance and Telefonica have launched a laboratory THE THINX - an open lab to test prototype and advance the 5G services of the future in a real end-to-end environment to shorten the time-to-market.

The lab is a public-private initiative fostered by the Barcelona city Hall by the Generalitat of Catalunya, Mobile World Capital Foundation (CTTC) and UPC Polytechnic university.

A MWCcapital and Telefonica have initially invested **2 million Euros** to focus on IOT and LTEM technologies.

The laboratory is aimed at startups and corporations that allows testing 5G technologies and aims to turn the city into one of the main hubs of digital European innovation in the field of 5G. It offers an experimental infrastructure to test, prototype and implement new digital solutions.

Test Features:

- Connecting to the network and attaching to the data network
- Send receive TCP and UDP traffic to and from the internet
- Use the eDRX and PSM features
- Measure power consumption and module delays
- Test using different network manufacturers always from the same location
- Simulate different coverage levels
- Use a Faraday cage to control completely the air radio connection
- Use a climatic chamber to test the impact of temperature on device

First tests: The [EnGiDi](#) startup has tested its device aimed at improving the job security of workers on construction sites and large infrastructures, by monitoring their movements in real time.

Five startups from Wallonia receive an award

At the [SHAKE event](#) which took place the 18th of December at [Namur EXPO](#), five digital startups received the Digital Wallonia Startups International Award from Chantal De Bleu.

The five winners are:

1. [ALX SYSTEMS](#): offers embedded intelligence solutions via drones, via custom-built in-house programs.

- Sectors of activity: secret services, detection of terrorist threats, surveillance of persons, border control, nature reserves, etc.
 - Based in Velroux
2. [DIGITEAL](#): billing platform that allows customers to consolidate all their digital invoices in one place, in order to manage and pay them more easily
- Based in Mont-Saint-Guibert.
3. [CYANVIEW](#): designs and manufactures a universal mini-camera system for broadcast and cinema under the name Cy-Stem
- Based in Lessines
4. [TESSARES](#): Software solution for optimizing Internet connection capacity by aggregating available paths (fixed / mobile / wireless)
- Based in Ottignies-Louvain-la-Neuve
5. [Herrmutt Lobby \(HLO\)](#): Designer of the app "Playground" for iPad.
- The application allows the beginner to download a song, a piece of music or a composition on his mobile and interpret it in his own way, to create a infinite number of variations on the same theme or harmony
 - Based in Seraing.

Each of these five startups received a "gift certificate export" worth € 10,000.

This amount will not be paid "in cash" directly to each of these five companies, but they can each benefit from several AWEX aids up to € 10,000. It can be used for different purposes:

- free participation in a show / mission planned by AWEX in its annual action plan (CES, Mobile, GDC, Viva Tech, etc) where AWEX would take charge of aircrafts, hotels, stands
- free participation in a trade show / mission not planned by AWEX in its annual action plan where AWEX would take charge of aircrafts, hotels, stands
- consulting with an AWEX-approved foreign trade specialist Digital Wallonia International Hub

We congratulate all five startups on winning Digital Wallonia Startups International Award!