



30 Years of SEPT

Panel 2  
University Network for International Startup  
Exchange

Christian Hauke

- Since August 2006, SMILE has been working to **establish the entrepreneurial spirit** at Leipzig's University (and research institutes)
- **Students, graduates, and academic personnel** who have entrepreneurial ambitions receive support in the form of individual coaching sessions on various aspects of the prestart-up phase
- The focus of the programme's activities is to bring teams to the **first financing**
- Around **500 participants** take part in approximately 80 activities of different types each semester
- More than **600 start-ups** were established in the last 16 years
- SMILE is supported by the **ESF**, the **Free State of Saxony**, the **BMW**, and the **Leipziger Stiftung**
- Increasing support for going global through International cooperation like **International Startup Campus**, **ARQUS** and **MELES**



# SEPT – International Cooperation on Startup support



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- European Innovaters Award
- ISLYE – Sending teams to university incubators



# SEPT – International Cooperation on Startup support



- Summerschool – Mixing international teams



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- Summerschool – Mixing international teams

# Example „MELES“

## MELES Summer School

- Selection by each partner  
University with a project
- Mixing teams
- Developing a new business  
model
- Connecting people





# Example „MELES“

## ISLYE

- Startup teams from all universities can be sent to the incubators of the partner universities
- Simple application process
- Start with an online course
- Selection of teams that receive mobility 3-10 days
- Integration in the local program
- Contacts



An entrepreneur from Padua visits the start-up initiative SMILE at Leipzig within ISLYE Programme



17 May 2022

In the framework of the ISLYE (International Soft Landing for Young Entrepreneurs) Programme of Arqus, Héctor García, founder of *weavez* in Padua, visited SMILE, the start-up initiative of Leipzig University, from 2nd to 8th May.

ISLYE aims to encourage student entrepreneurs to engage in international exchange, for example through mobility offers like the visit of *weavez* in Leipzig. The entrepreneurs are supported in developing their internationalisation strategy in the form of partnerships with incubators such as SMILE. With his project *weavez*, Héctor García aims at enabling students to learn about and exchange information on local events and to engage in community building at their university locations.

Six entrepreneurs selected to take part in the Arqus ISLYE 2020-21 program



12 October 2020

The Arqus ISLYE (International mobility for young entrepreneurs) programme for student entrepreneurs aims to offer international mobility opportunities between incubators (i.e. collaboration with higher education institutions), to student entrepreneurs through partnerships based on the principle of reciprocity, in order to support them in the development of their internationalisation strategy.

Following the 2020-21 call for applications, 6 excellent candidates have been selected to move on to the next round of virtual mentoring and coaching sessions, in order to work on their businesses with their host incubators!

The 6 selected young entrepreneurs are:

# Challenges in Summer Schools

- Working on my project or another one?
- Working with the right people?
- Matching?
- Academic years in different countries?
- Different status of the projects
- No preparation before



## Challenges in sending to incubators

- Time frame? When is the right time to think international?
- Meeting the right people?
- Mobility funds?
- Running programs in the incubators?
- Support structures in different universities?
- Integrating of non – students or non academics in public structures?



# Exercise - „Supporting startups vom partner universities“

## How could it work at your university?

- Format?
- Length?
- Stakeholders involved?
- Status of teams?
- ...



## Build the ideal process with Lego!

- Mixed teams
- Be creative
- focus on priorities
- Play for 30 minutes
- Each team presents for 5 minutes

### Five learnings on the flipchart!

<https://www.smile.uni-leipzig.de/>

<https://www.argus-alliance.eu/>

<https://www.ageacademy.de/>

<https://internationalstartupcampus.com/>