



KAUNAS STARTUP ECOSYSTEM

RESOURCES LIST

ABOUT THE DOCUMENT

- The document was created to make the Kaunas startup ecosystem more transparent and inviting to newcomers. The primary audience of the publication is future and early-stage entrepreneurs, but it serves everyone interested in the Kaunas startup ecosystem.
- There is no one single right way to build a startup, but for the sake of simplicity, we have categorized the resources based on different startup development stages.
- The document is a work in progress. New resources are constantly appearing, and some of the old ones disappear. We will do our best to update the list annually.
- We are open to contributions. If you see a resource missing, inactive or incorrect, please email us at gytautas@kaunasin.lt
- Each resource is listed only once, to keep this list manageable.
 - When deciding an appropriate category for a resource, we chose the earliest category or startup phase that the resource primarily serves.
 - If one resource has several “brands” (e.g., a co-working space that has a separate event series), we listed out those brands as separate resources).
- In areas where Kaunas lacks resources, we included national ones. (e.g., VC funds, seed accelerators).
- The document is provided in English to serve a wider range of people, but in case an English website is missing, we provide a Lithuanian one.

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IDEA STAGE

This is where new entrepreneurs get inspired, learn best practices, acquire skills, validate ideas, and begin to build their team.

A. Inspire

Startup media: Local tech news, startup press, communication channels, and major media focusing on startups.

Kaunas

- **15min** – major media news portal with startup news section.
- **Aha Momentai Podcast** – interviews SME owners (including startups), exploring challenges of growing business.
- **Antanas Bakšys Substack** – a newsletter focused on building startups from 0 to 1 with a focus on B2B SaaS and Gen AI.
- **Kaunas IN Startups Facebook Page** – Kaunas startups ecosystem and community news.
- **KTU NIEC** – Kaunas University of Technology innovation news.
- **Tech-Park Kaunas Facebook Page and Newsletter** – news from Kaunas science and technology park and some general city news.
- **VMU CTTC Facebook page** – Vytautas Magnus University innovation news.

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National

- **bzn start** – business news outlet with a startup news section.
- **LT Startups' Community Facebook Group**
- **Mokslo Sriuba** – online science show for curious people.
- **Proto Industrija** – the biggest business vlog on YouTube in Lithuania.
- **Startup Lithuania: Newsletter, LinkedIn, and Facebook** – national startup ecosystem facilitator.
- **Startup Sales Talks** – YouTube channel about sales.
- **Tech Philomaths LinkedIn and website** – startup scene in Lithuania and Baltics.
- **Unicorns Lithuania Newsletter, LinkedIn, and Facebook** – Lithuanian startups' association news.
- **Verslo Žinios** – the biggest business news outlet with an innovation news section.

Inspirational startup events: Open, inclusive, beginner tech events.

Kaunas

- **Kaunas Startups Awards** – annual celebration of Kaunas' startups achievements and a major networking event.
- **Life Science After Work Meetup** – regular life sciences-oriented innovation meetup.
- **Startup Social Kaunas** – regular events for entrepreneurs to get inspired and network with the startup community.

B. Educate

Best practice startup events: Beginner knowledge-sharing events that serve to educate more than inspire.

Kaunas

- **Business Women's Network** – initiative by Kaunas Chamber of Commerce to help women entrepreneurs succeed in starting a business by sharing know-how.
- **EDIH Take Out** – remote meetings connecting those looking to digitize their business with those offering digitization.
- **Kaunas AI Meetups** – gathering spot for AI enthusiasts and experts in Kaunas to share experience.
- **Kaunas Game Developers** – unites industry professionals and aspiring developers who share projects, listen to industry professionals and make new friends.
- **Kaunas Hack & Tell** – makers (look “makerspace”) showcasing their projects and sharing knowledge.
- **Kaunas JUG** – community of Java developers (novice and professional) who communicate about Java & JVM out of JVM.
- **Kit Club** – Kaunas IT community open to all enthusiasts who are interested in IT.
- **Turbolink** – speed networking for SME's.

National

- **Login** – the biggest annual innovation conference in Lithuania.

Startup training & events:
Skill and idea development events, bootcamps and comprehensive training programs.

Kaunas

- BIT – training programs in the technology sector.
- Dataschool – training programs in the technology sector.
- EDIH Digital transformation trainings – digital transformation training.
- EdON Academy – training programs in the technology sector.
- HealthTech Catalyst incubator – training program focused on developing competencies and building new products in healthcare.
- IdeaPoint Hackathons – hackathons for students to learn and develop and idea.
- I-Days Kaunas – hackathon like events.
- Private Equity and Venture Capital Course – knowledge and skills needed for success in private equity and venture capital.
- Spiečius Kaunas public events – various educational events.
- VDU CTTC Hackathons – hackathons for students to learn and develop and idea.

National

- Why AI – AI Agency that helps understand and practically harness the power of AI tools.
- Women Go Tech – the program offers women industry knowledge, community support, and confidence-building to transition into tech careers.

C. Validate

Team formation: Events, resources and tools that facilitate early-stage recruitment and co-founder matching: No resource in Lithuania.

Build first product: Hackathons, product workshops & other resources to help you start building minimum viable product (MVP):

Kaunas

- Baltic Sandbox Hackathons – Life Sciences and Deep Tech oriented.
- Hospiton – Life Sciences oriented.
- Invention House by Ažuolynas Library – maker space.
- Makerspace – collaborative hardware workspace where people gather to create, invent, and learn using shared tools and resources.
- Rockit Hackatons – fields of interest vary, but do not include deep tech.
- Tech-Park Hackathons – life sciences, deep tech, and defence oriented.

②

LAUNCH STAGE

Here entrepreneurs finish building their MVP, establish and formalize the company, get feedback from customers, develop the product and enter the market. It includes early-stage funding.

A. Start

Law firms specializing in helping startups and new companies.

Kaunas

- Alšauskas & Kripas
- Lawcorpus
- Newton Law
- Magnusson Law

National

- Coblat
- Ellex
- Noor
- Prevence
- Sorainen
- Startup Lithuania - freely available legal documents for startups
- TGS Baltic
- Triniti Jurex
- Wallless
- Widen

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Banks that specialize in helping startups.

National / Online

- **Revolut** – startup business account available.
- **SEB Innovation Center** – a place, where entrepreneurs can get support, also facilitating experimentation with fintech, academia and corporates.

Workspace: Co-working and other workspaces.

Kaunas

- **Ažuolynas Library** – freely available workplace and meeting rooms in a newly renovated library.
- **Design Friends** – coworking space.
- **Kaunas Artists' House** – the reading room where free coffee is available.
- **Konversus** – office building with a coworking space.
- **KTU Library** – 24/7 library on the student campus.
- **Pixel Hub** – coworking space.
- **Project Hub** – coworking space.
- **Redakcija** – coworking space.
- **Vincas Kudirka Public Library** – modern and creative, freely available workspaces in the city center.
- **Workation Ideas** – article listing the best spots that offer free desks or sometimes even free coffee.
- **Workland** – coworking space.

B. Develop

Pre-acceleration and incubation programs help founders validate their idea, build an MVP, develop their initial business model and get first users. Often provides free or affordable office space.

Kaunas

- **Baltic Sandbox incubator and pre-accelerator** – med tech, bio tech, agro tech, food tech, pharma tech, health tech.
- **Design for Creative Business and Innovation** – 3-year entrepreneurship bachelor's degree program.
- **Junior Achievement Lithuania** – program for 5th–12th grade students teaching them to create, develop, and manage a business.
- **Kickstart Lab** pre-accelerator and incubator by **Spiečius** for youth under 30 years old.
- **KTU Startup Space incubator** – cross-industry.
- **Rockit incubator and pre-accelerator** – cross-industry excluding deep tech.
- **Tech-Park Kaunas incubator and pre-accelerators** – two separate programs: Med tech and Digitech.
- **VMU Biotechnology and agrifood Incubator** – cross-industry.

National

- **GovTech Lab** – focused on encouraging the creation and use of innovative solutions for the government.

Katalista – sustainability and social pre-accelerator.

- **Scale Wolf** – dual use technologies catering defence and commercial applications simultaneously. Provides up to €10,000 equity free grant for each participating team.
- **Startup Guide** by Startup Lithuania – free online pre-acceleration program for entrepreneurs.

Academic research resources

Kaunas

- **KTU Artificial Intelligence Center** – coordinating and providing services for AI projects.
- **M-Lab** – interdisciplinary prototyping laboratory center.
- **Nemunas Valley** – integrated science, study and business center for the development of the agriculture, forestry, and food sector.
- **Santaka Valley** – integrated science, study, and business center for the development of the chemistry, biopharmacy, energy, mechatronics, and IT sectors.
- **VDU CTTC laboratories** – laboratories of Vytautas Magnus University Communication and Technology Transfer Center.

Advanced knowledge-sharing events

Kaunas

- **Founders Morning Coffee Club** – bi-weekly entrepreneurs' gatherings to learn from each other, gain connections, and new business partners.
- **Tech-Park Kaunas R&D Meetups**

contact **Tech-Park Kaunas** to get invited; the events are semi closed.

- **EIT Health Morning Health Talks** – series of events launched to stimulate thought-provoking

Mentorship programs or events

- **Business Mentors** – project developed by the Innovation Agency, free of charge.
- **LT Big Brother** – voluntary professional mentoring program for Lithuanians around the world.
- **Idealogue** – mentorship platform for current and future professionals.
- **Association "Lyderė"** – voluntary program for women who want to develop their careers in management positions and corporate boards.
- **International Coaching Day** – a set of startup support speed-coaching sessions. Contact **Tech-Park Kaunas** to get more information.

Sandboxes

National

- **Financial Innovations Regulatory Sandbox** – created by the Bank of Lithuania.
- **Ignitis Sandbox** – Ignitis Group sandbox provides free access to its DSO grid, EV charging infrastructure, data and more.
- **RealBox Baltic PropTech Playground** – sandbox by PropTech Baltic to test and pilot products.
- **Swedbank Sandbox** – gain access to Swedbank and 58 other Savings Banks (Sparbanken) customers in the Swedbank family.

C. Launch & Funding

Seed accelerators help startups to develop and launch product, acquire customers, refine business model, prepare for seed investment and scaling. Often accelerators provide funding to all or part of the accelerated startups.

National

- **Baltic Sandbox Ventures** – software, hardware, and life science accelerator providing investment to all participating startups.
- **Bridgio** – hardware accelerator providing funding to selected startups.
- **FIRSTPICK** – Focuses on fintech, SaaS, deeptech, consumer marketplaces, but are open to other areas. Provides funding to selected startups.
- **Plug and Play** – one of the top accelerators in the world operating in Lithuania. Industry agnostic. Provides a journey to Silicon Valley for selected startups. Provides funding to selected startups.
- **Scale Wolf** – dual use technologies catering defence and commercial applications simultaneously. Provides funding to nearly every participating startup.

Investor networking: pitch & demo events, groups, and associations connecting

founders with investors and the business community.

Kaunas

- **International Student Companies eXpo** – annual exhibition for school students to meet the business community and attract investors.
- **Technorama** – the biggest innovation exhibition in Lithuania happening annually.

National

- **LitBAN** – Lithuanian Business Angels Network + their monthly pitching events.
- **LT VCA** – Lithuanian private equity and venture capital association.
- **Startup Fair** – the biggest annual startup conference in Lithuania.

Angel investors are mostly financing pre-seed and sometimes seed rounds. We have listed angels living in Kaunas or having strong ties to the city. This does not increase your chances of getting financed but creates good conditions for initial investor conversations.

Living in Kaunas or has strong ties to the city:

Andrius Dapkevičius, Antanas Bakšys, Arminas Kildišis, Arvydas Bložė, Audrys Leimontas, Dainius Serafimas, Darius Putna, Dominykas Milašius, Dovydas Reinikevicius, Giedrius Kukauskas, Ieva Lodaitė, Justinas Taruška, Karolis Samusis, Kipras Kazlauskas, Liudas Ubarevičius, Mantas Kavaliauskas,

Mantas Radvila, Marius Siburkis, Modestas Povilaitis, Paulius Vilemas, Paulius Insoda, Rokas Jurkėnas, Tadas Kaminskas, Tadas Vybornas, Vladas Lašas.

Early-stage VCs mostly financing pre-seed or seed rounds

Kaunas

- **Confluence Investment** – a family office with a history of investing in startups through global funds, now starting to invest directly in startups from Kaunas.

National and foreign, actively looking for opportunities in Lithuania

- **500 Emerging Europe** – sector agnostic.
- **Balnord** – DeepTech and Data-Driven Software.
- **Business Angels Fund** – sector agnostic.
- **Contrarian Ventures** – climate tech (green energy, transportation, carbon, built environment, climate).
- **Coinvest Capital** – sector agnostic (priority to green tech, life sciences, deep tech, transport, defence).
- **FIRSTPICK** – Fintech, SaaS, deeptech, consumer marketplaces.
- **Gamedevfund** – premium indie games for PC/consoles with a playable demo on hand.
- **Ironwolf Capital** – AI and Deep Tech.
- **Junicorns** – unites early-stage venture capital and angel investors to support and invest in Lithuania's Junior Achievement students or alumni teams.
- **Open Circle Capital** – ICT, robotics,

and high-tech.

- **Orion Ventures** – sector agnostic.
- **Practica Capital** – sector agnostic.
- **Scale Wolf** – dual use technologies catering defence and commercial applications simultaneously.
- **SEB Baltic Venture Debt** – debt investments in high-growth companies in the Baltic countries.
- **SEB Greentech VC** – green technology (from renewable energy, energy storage, water and agricultural technology, circular business models, to waste management).
- **Superhero Capital** – software-driven startups in the New Nordics (Finland and the Baltics).
- **Taiwania Capital** – technology and biotech.

Notes:

- This section excludes accelerators that fund only their participating startups. For additional funding options, check the **Seed Accelerators** section as well.
- **Funding Guide** – Startup Lithuania Funding guide that explains funding ABCs.
- **LTVCA** – check venture capital association website for more info.



GROWTH STAGE

This stage focuses on startups that have launched and are looking to scale their business. Resources here help with, getting recognized, growing operations, scaling teams, expanding markets, and raising larger rounds of funding.

A. Funding

Later stage VCs: mostly financing Series A and beyond

National and foreign, actively looking for opportunities in Lithuania

- **Nordic Ninja** – Sustainability | Digital Society | Deeptech. Series A/B
- **Nordic Secondary Fund** – acquires secondary stakes in companies that have completed a Series-A capital raising.

B. Growth

Expansion/ startup scaling: Growth accelerators and tech consultants. (i.e. programs and business consultants for capital-rich companies to grow and scale)

National

- **Tesonet Accelerator** – growth accelerator providing their network, investments, and more.
- **Unicorns Lithuania** – Lithuanian startups association organizing high-level know-how exchange events, advocating startups' positions to institutions and more.

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SUPPORTERS

To facilitate the steps, every ecosystem needs strong supporters.

A. Evangelists

A list of potential advisors. Successful local founders who lead the ecosystem, frequently mentor newbies, and speak at startup events.

Founders

- [Algirdas Stonys](#)
- [Antanas Bakšys](#)
- [Domas Janickas](#)
- [Dominykas Milašius](#)
- [Justin Taruska](#)
- [Klaudijus Ambrozas](#)
- [Liudas Ubarevičius](#)
- [Lukas Žemaitis](#)
- [Marius Staugaitis](#)
- [Paulius Nagys](#)
- [Paulius Vilemas](#)
- [Šarunas Straševicius](#)
- [Vladas Lašas](#)
- [Vytautas Byla](#)
- [Vytautas Jokužis](#)

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B. Government

Public startup programs, grants, chambers of commerce, and other services that facilitate local economic development.

- [CERN Lithuania incubator](#) - partnership framework that connects Lithuania with CERN, enabling collaboration in nuclear and particle physics.
- [ES Investicijos](#) - useful information on EU funding calls and other business programs.
- [ILTE](#) - State-established financial institution with the main objectives to provide financial services, implement and manage financial and other forms of financing for business.
- [Innovation Agency](#) - governmental or non-profit organization that promotes and supports innovation across various business stages. Provides various types of funding to businesses.
- [Kaunas Chamber of Commerce, Industry and Crafts](#) - supporting the development of companies' economic activity.
- [Kaunas IN](#) - Kaunas city business promotion and startup ecosystem facilitation agency.
- [Lithuanian Innovation Center](#) - providing innovation support services by implementing Lithuanian innovation policy.
- [Startup Lithuania](#) - national startup ecosystem facilitator between fast-growing business, venture capital funds, accelerators, startup-friendly enterprises, and the government.

C. Talent

Major local universities with prominent technical or business programs and employers (100+ employees) that attract and retain local talent.

Local universities

- [Kaunas University of Applied Engineering Sciences](#) - training engineering specialists.
- [Kauno Kolegija Higher Education Institution](#) - training specialists in technology, informatics, engineering, medicine, humanities, social, art, education, business and public management, law, and agricultural sciences.
- [Kaunas University of Technology](#) - one of the largest technical universities in the Baltics, a leading research University in Lithuania, offering research and studies in all fields.
- [Lithuanian University of Health Sciences](#) - offers all-level, integrated and residency study programmes focused on health, life, agricultural and veterinary sciences.
- [Vytautas Magnus University](#) - offers programs at all levels, emphasizing social sciences, humanities, environmental studies, biotechnologies, arts.

Local employers. Major technology, global business services, engineering and life sciences employers with 100+ employees.

Tech/ global business services:

- BDO
- Centric
- Dassault Systems
- Dematic
- Devbridge
- Eneba
- EPAM systems
- Equinox Europe
- Festo
- Hostinger
- Kayak
- NFQ
- NKT Lithuania
- Tesonet Group (Nord VPN, Cyber Care)
- Orbio World
- PVcase
- Telesoftas
- Transunion
- Tribe Payments
- Tutotoons
- Softera Baltic

Engineering:

- Axioma Metering
- Continental
- Elinta Group
- Forvia Hella
- Kitron
- Littelfuse
- Micro Matic
- Peikko
- Selteka
- Teltonika Networks

Life sciences:

- Aconitum
- Biomapas
- Esco Medical
- Hollister
- Ortho Baltic



SUCCESS STORIES

Successful homegrown companies, depending on the maturity of a given industry, that have raised significant institutional funding, generate significant revenue, employ a large workforce, or have achieved liquidity.

- Axioma metering – 50+ M EUR revenue (2x since last year), 400+ employees
- Burga – 50+ M USD revenue
- Elinta Charge – 50+ employees
- Elinta Motors – 60+ employees, 10+ M EUR revenue
- Eneba – 170+ employees, 8 M USD investment
- Frontu – exit
- Genomika – 5 M EUR investment (life sciences company)
- Hostinger – 400+ employees, 100+ M EUR revenue
- iDenfy – 50+ employees
- IPXO – 70+ employees
- MedDream – exit
- Nando – 40+ employees and liquidity
- Orbio World – 140 M EUR revenue, 200+ employees
- PVcase – 100 M USD investment
- Satalia – exit
- SearchNode – exit
- Sentante – 6 M EUR investment (life sciences company)
- Sneakybox – 50+ employees
- Tutotoons – exit

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