

# Second Growth Company Forum Supports Start-up Ecosystem



Andrej Kiska, President of the Slovak Republic, spoke about startup-friendly environments.



Pictured here are (from left): von Reiche; Christian Tegge, German Startups Association; Morse; Benjamin Rohé, Managing Director of GTEC.

Each year, around 1,000 start-ups are founded in Germany, but only few grow to “make it” internationally or go public. Access to growth finance is one of the key prerequisites for success. But besides financing, soft factors are also important.

To support the German start-up ecosystem and promote exchange between investors and start-ups in their growth phase, AmCham Germany’s Entrepreneurship Committee has again teamed up with the German Startups Association and the German Tech Entrepreneurship Center (GTEC) to host the second Growth Company Forum in Berlin on October 15, supported by KPMG and ESMT European School of Management and Technology.

“Innovation needs freedom, trust and a risk-friendly environment,” stated Andrej Kiska, President of the Slovak Republic and former serial entrepreneur, in his keynote speech at the event. Indeed, it would be the job of politicians to encourage people to take on risks to pursue their entrepreneurial goals, he continued.

The half-day event explored opportunities and limits of growth financing in Germany. Participants shared the opinion that, compared to the US, the start-up landscape in Germany is still nascent and investors are rather cautious. German companies and investors could learn a lot from the American mindset, which is more open to disruptive innovation and perceives failure as an experience to build upon.

Presentations of German high-growth companies NewStore, SavingGlobal and Number26 on topics and perspectives of ‘start-up ecosystems’ alternated with start-up companies introducing their own business ideas and hoping to spark interest in investors. Christian Miele from e.ventures introduced their venture capital fund.

Advice to start-ups was also given by Ken Morse, Chairman of Entrepreneurship Ventures Inc. and former managing director of the MIT Entrepreneurship Center. A fireside chat with Ludwig von Reiche, Chair of AmCham Germany’s Entrepreneurship Committee, and Thomas Stafford, Partner at DST Global and several networking sessions rounded up the event. ■



Pictured here are (front row, from left): von Reiche; Tim Dümichen of KPMG AG; Rohé; Florian Nöll, President, German Startups Association; Andreas Povel, AmCham Germany General Manager.



Dr. Tamaz Georgadze, CEO of SavingGlobal GmbH, presented his company.