

**2019**

**WORLD CONGRESS OF ANGEL INVESTORS**

*Connecting Private Equity Funds with Angel Investors to Boost Innovation*

**World Business Angels Investment Forum**

17 – 18 - 19 February 2019, Istanbul

An affiliated partner of the G20 Global Partnership for Financial Inclusion (GPFI), the World Business Angels Investment Forum is bringing together key players of the equity market to discuss the benefits of and the challenges to the angel investment community’s achieving successful growth for their businesses and to discuss what more can be done to connect the early-stage market ecosystem.

**For the first time ever, the World Business Angels Investment Forum is providing a unique opportunity to 66 selected start-ups and scale-ups to pitch their businesses on the Global Fund Raising Stage (GFRS) of the World Congress 2019.**

World Business Angels Investment Forum is going to host more than 1000 delegates from all over the world at the World Congress of Angel Investors 2019, the biggest annual gathering of the world early stage equity and investment markets, will have 5 important summits running concurrently on the same days. WBAF Annual Conference 2019 for angel investors, Take Invest Summit 2019 for start-ups and scale-ups, FinTech Summit 2019 for finance excecutives, Impact Investment Summit 2019 for impact investors and CEO-Preneurship Summit 2019 for CEOs of global companies over 100 million dollar will address to main challenges and opportunities of the world economy in 2019.

WBAF 2019 will salute the global successes of year at the World Excellence Awards & VIP Gala Dinner at the Swissotel The Bosphorus Istanbul, one of the most distinguished hotel of Europe.

* WBAF Annual Conference 2019 for angel investors,
* Take Invest Summit 2019 for start-ups and scale-ups,
* FinTech Summit 2019 for finance excecutives,
* Impact Investment Summit 2019 for impact investors and
* CEO-Preneurship Summit 2019 for CEOs of global companies over USD 100 million

We invite you to join us in our global effort to ease access to smart finance, which will help create more jobs and more social justice worldwide. Your efforts to convert the world economy into a smart economy in cooperation with the World Business Angels Investment Forum are very important.

**Shaping the 2019 agenda of the world equity markets**

An affiliated partner of the G20 Global Partnership for Financial Inclusion (GPFI), the World Business Angels Investment Forum (WBAF) will focus on angel investors partnering with private equity funds at the World Congress of Angel Investors in 2019. The discussions will explore how private equity funds can foster open innovation and deliver more business value through partnerships with angel investors, start-ups, scale-ups, high-growth businesses and SMEs. The CEO-Preneurship Summit will focus on connecting angel investors with corporate ventures, while the FinTech Summit will deal with issues of financial inclusion and ways to democratise access to finance from start-up to scale-up to exit. LPs, start-ups, scale-ups and angel investors will be able to connect at the Take Investment Summit and on the Global Pitching Stage. And don’t miss the opportunity generate innovative ideas for mobilizing private and public capital for the social good at the Impact Investment Summit. WBAF 2019 offers a wide variety of Investment Academy Workshops using a range of inputs (case studies, panel discussions, and presentations, to name a few), all of which encourage active participation and interaction on the part of those attending. From business angels to policymakers to academics, the World Excellence Awards 2019 will salute those who stand out in imagining, discussing, and shaping the future of an entrepreneurial world.

**Top business leaders from all over the world**

On their retirement, corporate CEOs will have more time to mentor start-ups, scale-ups, high-growth businesses and SMEs. They come with a good financial package and a vast network that they have built over the years. The only thing they may lack is know-how: they need to learn about the principles of investing in start-ups and about founding a company from scratch. The time is now right for the CEOs of today to take a smart step — to focus on the potential of their future role as angel investors. The World Business Angels Investment Forum is taking the initiative, creating an international platform to support the transitioning of today’s CEOs to the qualified angel investors of tomorrow. WBAF believes that G20 countries can do more to foster economic development by involving CEOs more directly in early-stage equity markets.

**Transforming the finance industry by incorporating cutting-edge technology**

The FinTech Summit at WBAF 2019 in Istanbul will address the challenges and opportunities of the global fintech ecosystem. Global equity market leaders — family office managers, wealth management executives, stock exchange executives, financial experts, policymakers, academics, active members of early-stage investment markets, bank executives and WBAF delegates — will come together to discuss a wide range of topics related to transformations in the finance industry through the incorporation of cutting-edge technology.

**Mobilizing private and public capital in innovative ways for the social good**

Now is the time to focus on developing ways to finance all these social investments. The World Business Angels Investment Forum brings together angel investors, corporate venture executives, fund managers, stock exchange executives and public institutions at WBAF 2019 to discuss the increasing need for innovative and effective approaches to solving social and environmental issues. Cooperation with and partnerships between governments, NGOs, corporates, and private investors are new ways that can combine the forces of entrepreneurship, innovation and capital in order to improve peoples’ lives, increase awareness and expand the investor base to achieve more inclusion and more sustainable societies with action plans to make impact investment a more influential practice.

**An opportunity to connect with and learn from hundreds of highly qualified angel investors from five continents**

Aside from presentations by renowned thought leaders in the field of entrepreneurship and global angel investors, the Take Invest Summit at WBAF 2019 will feature keynote speeches, fireside chats, presentations and panel discussions. Each one will offer important insights into the start-up ecosystem. The summit will be also an open learning space for entrepreneurs to increase their understanding of the investment strategies of angel investors, fund-raising strategies of successful entrepreneurs, term-sheet negotiation techniques, company valuations, due diligence checklists used by global investors, and ways to access co-investment funds.

**Fostering the kind of creative thinking that leads to innovation by open learning and skill development**

It is the position of the WBAF Investment Academy that, when investors have had the advantage of training in the best practices of negotiating deals for early-stage investment, they are in a better position to ensure good returns on their investment. With this in mind, the World Business Angels Investment Forum offers a wide variety of workshops at WBAF 2019, using a range of inputs (case studies, panel discussions, and presentations, to name a few), all of which encourage active participation and interaction on the part of those attending.

The WBAF 2019 Workshops serve not just business angels; all types of stakeholders are welcome, ranging from entrepreneurs and SMEs to banks and stock exchanges to incubation and acceleration centres. The ultimate goal is to contribute to the development of skills and expertise and to foster the kind of creative thinking that leads to innovation and eventual success in the ever-changing market environment of the 21st century.

**Saluting those who stand out in imagining, discussing, and shaping the future of an entrepreneurial world**

With its Excellence Awards, the World Business Angels Investment Forum looks beyond borders. It seeks to promote and nurture start-ups, scale-ups, high-growth businesses, SMEs, angel investors, and a dynamic business community throughout the world. From business angels to policymakers to academics, the Awards salute those who stand out in imagining, discussing, and shaping the future of an entrepreneurial world. Given the diverse challenges the world is facing in the twenty-first century, it is important to recognise that entrepreneurship and angel investment can have a major impact on our future, offering new ways to increase economic opportunities and to foster social justice. The World Excellence Awards of WBAF 2019 will be presented to the winners at the VIP Gala Dinner on the evening of 18 February 2019 after a VIP Reception and Red Carpet Walking.

**Helping the next generation of great companies move forward**

At this gathering of angel investors — the world’s biggest angel investment forum — the World Business Angels Investment Forum wants to give 100 start-ups, scale-ups and high-growth businesses an opportunity to connect with hundreds of highly qualified angel investors from five continents. We are therefore allocating a special area at WBAF 2019, where 100 start-ups, scale-ups and high-growth businesses will each have a designated area to showcase their business. They will thus have exposure to highly qualified angel investors, family office executives, co-investment fund managers, angel investment group directors, corporate venture executives, accelerator executives, technopark investment directors and venture capitalists. The mission is to showcase the world’s top start-ups and scale-ups, which, typically, are funded companies in the process of raising of funds with the aim of globalizing. The WBAF Take Invest Summit 2019 will essentially be a co-investment platform for angel investors, start-ups, scale-ups and high-growth businesses. In addition to opening an exhibition booth, each team will be asked to make a 3-minute pitch to investors on the Global Pitching Stage.

**Qualified Angel Investor Certificate Programme**

After the first cohort of the QBAC+ program at the London Stock Exchange Group, the next cohort of the certification program will start immediately after WBAF 2019. An intensive course will be held in Istanbul at the Swissotel The Bosphorus 20 – 22 February, which will provide an opportunity to be recognised as Qualified Angel Investor. For anyone new to angel investing, this is an invaluable course that covers the most important aspects of investing and ways to avoid the pitfalls angel investors may encounter.

This course is for professionals (including CEOs) from

* listed companies or anyone who has an entrepreneurial background who can invest a minimum of 5,000 EUR every year,
* university students, start-ups, and entrepreneurs who want to learn what angel investors are looking for when they are planning to invest in new businesses,
* directors of business angel networks, acceleration and incubation centres and technoparks, and
* anyone who wants to set up a business angel network or create a business angel investment group.

**www.wbaf2019.istanbul**