



## Migratory Pathways for Start-Ups and Innovative Entrepreneurs in the European Union

EMN Synthesis Report  
for the EMN Study 2019

### **National EMN Seminar, Sweden 2019**

Stockholm, 25<sup>th</sup> November 2019

Veronika Vasileva, EMN Service Provider (ICF)

# Outline

1. Study aims and scope
2. Business environment
3. Fostering start-ups as policy priority
4. Specific start-up schemes
5. Admission conditions
6. Incentives and attraction measures
7. Branding and promotion of schemes
8. Results and impact of special schemes
9. Challenges and success factors

# Aim and scope of the Study

## Aim of the report

- Provide an overview of the migratory pathways available for **start-ups** and other **innovative entrepreneurs** coming to the EU

## Scope of the study



25 EU Member States



2014 - 2019

# Business environment

- Beneficial economic and societal impacts of fostering entrepreneurship
- Creating an environment where individuals are motivated to innovate, create new products or services, and take risks
- Whilst no EU-level instrument for attracting start-ups, the EU nevertheless plays an active role in this field, with attracting and retaining start-up founders and employees from third countries forming part of the objective of upgrading the single market



# Fostering start-ups as a policy priority

- Attracting and fostering start-ups from third countries is a policy priority in over half of the MS: AT, BG, CY, EE, ES, FI, FR, IE, IT, LT, LV, MT, NL, PL, PT, SI, UK
- This priority has received high level political commitment



# Fostering start-ups as a policy priority

## ■ Rationales:

- Tackling skills shortages
- Creating high-value jobs
- Bringing foreign capital
- Contributing to the state budget through tax receipts
- Promoting innovation and competitiveness on the international scene



With TechLeap.NL the Netherlands is running for European leadership in tech. Being one interconnected nation we're in a position where we can work as one unit to push the Netherlands forward together.

PRINCE CONSTANTIJN  
VAN ORANJE

# Special start-up schemes



- **13 Member States** have introduced special start-up schemes: AT, CY, EE, ES, FI, FR, IE, IT, LT, LV, NL, PT, UK
- With the exception of IE, IT, NL, ES and UK, the schemes are still in their infancy, having been introduced in the **last three years**
- A special visa and residence permit to admit third-country national **start-up employees** currently exists in CY, EE, FR and PT. In the Netherlands, a pilot scheme will be introduced in 2020 for key personnel.
- No specific schemes are in place in the remaining 11 countries
- BE, BG and SE noted potential plans to introduce specific start-up schemes



# Admission conditions



## Business-related

- Innovation, scalability, added value to national economy: all 13
- Business plan: AT, CY, EE, ES, FI, FR, IE, IT, LT, PT, UK
- Minimum level of capital: AT, CY, IE, IT, UK
- Facilitator/support scheme: **NL, PT, UK** (AT, EE, FR, IE, LT)

## Founder-related

- Qualifications: AT, CY, ES, IT, LT
- Business experience: AT, EE, FI, IT, LT, PT
- Language skills: AT, CY, UK
- Other conditions (proof of subsistence, clean criminal record, health insurance, etc.)



# Incentives and attraction measures



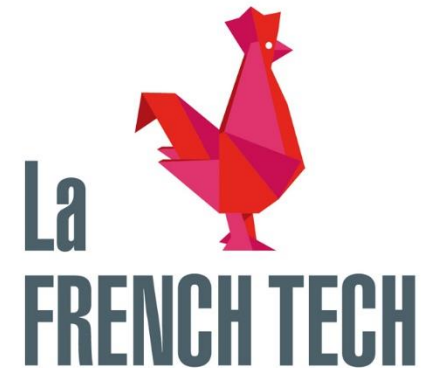
## Business-related

- Access to funding and investment
- Specialised information services
- Access to incubation and accelerator support programmes
- Co-working and dedicated spaces/facilities

## Immigration-related

- Facilitated access to permanent residence
- Family members accompanying the sponsor and their rights
- Possibility to apply online; shortened processing times

# Branding and promotion of schemes



# Results and impact of special schemes



## Number of permits issued (2018)

- UK (1,160 entrepreneur visas and 315 graduate visas)
- France (524 Talent passports issued)
- Estonia (422 visas and residence permits)
- Spain (104)
- the Netherlands (92)
- Italy (45), Lithuania (28), Ireland (19), Finland (18), Portugal (8), Cyprus (6), Slovak Republic (1) and Austria (0).

## Qualitative observations

- Although most of the schemes are in their infancy, having a specific admission channel is considered to have helped attracting international start-ups and talent

The European Migration Network (EMN) is co-ordinated by the European Commission with National Contact Points (EMN NCPs) established in each EU Member State plus Norway.

# Challenges and success factors



## Macro level

- Global competition for talent
- Opportunities in domestic and other markets
- Lack of incubators and accelerators and other support schemes
- Ecosystems and hubs, including in major European cities
- Access to risk capital

## Micro level

- Burdensome administrative procedures and lengthy application times
- Salary levels, cost of living, housing and quality of life
- Language skills



# Thank you!

EMN Publications available on the EMN Website:

[www.emn.europa.eu](http://www.emn.europa.eu)

For regular updates on EMN activities, follow the EMN on Twitter: **@EMNMigration**

Contact: [veronika.vasileva@icf.com](mailto:veronika.vasileva@icf.com) / [emn@icf.com](mailto:emn@icf.com)