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**Theme: *Building entrepreneurial ecosystems in cities***  
**Project title: *Lisbon Incubators Network***  
***(Rede de Incubadoras de Lisboa)***

**City:** Lisbon, Portugal

**Target group:** All actors in entrepreneurial ecosystem



***Context, issue(s) to tackle***

Today, cities operate based on new government policies empowering actors to implement shared projects. Lisbon is promoting the development of local networks in order to enable citizens, companies and organisations to actively participate in the co-creation of ideas and projects and thereby to foster the city's entrepreneurial and innovative dimensions. This ongoing strategy aims to enable the city to cope with the current economic and social challenges by targeting all those who want to strengthen Lisbon's entrepreneurial ecosystem.

***Objectives***

The main objectives of the Lisbon Incubators Network are to strengthen the city's competitiveness and to contribute to the creation of jobs.

The platform, which offers diversified resources in at [www.incubadoraslisboa.pt](http://www.incubadoraslisboa.pt), brings together incubators and accelerators, fablabs, co-working spaces, business angels, venture capital organisations and other stakeholders in entrepreneurship and innovation.

By building a network of entrepreneurs and business incubators, the network seeks to ensure that talent and creativity come to the city and stimulate the creation of economic value added.

***Date of achievement - design, development, implementation***

2009-2010: Startup Lisboa received most of the votes during the approval of Lisbon's participatory budget

2012: Startup Lisboa welcomed the first startups

2012: Startup Lisboa Commerce was opened

2013: Lisbon Incubators Network and its portal were launched

***Key steps and activities***

During the approval of Lisbon's participatory budget for 2009-2010, citizens voted for the creation of a business incubator, Startup Lisboa. It opened its doors in February 2012. Lisbon City Council replicated the idea and in November 2012 opened a new incubator, Startup Lisboa Commerce.



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Having assessed the results achieved by Startup Lisboa and Startup Lisboa Commerce, and drawing on the creative work of a diverse range of partners, the council decided to extend the entrepreneurial ecosystem by launching, in 2013, the Lisbon Incubators Network as part of its new strategy for economic development and innovation.

Lisbon City Council brings together and stimulates actors and encourages initiatives by:

- sharing best practices
- looking for strategic partners
- promoting this network and ecosystem at national and international levels

### *Budget and its origin*

Lisbon City Council's budget covers the maintenance of the network's website. A study on Lisbon's entrepreneurial ecosystem was also commissioned. The budget allocated to the project is expected to increase to enable the city to engage in new activities.

### *Results and impact*

The Lisbon Incubators Network has already contributed to:

- regenerating urban, social and economic areas in the city where network's members are active
- attracting talents and creativity (both national and international) to the city, generating innovative products and services
- forging partnerships and boosting networking between the stakeholders of the city/region/country
- attracting international events and organisations focused on entrepreneurship ecosystems
- internationalising the city's economic and entrepreneurs

The website <http://www.incubadoraslisboa.pt> quantifies the results of the Lisbon Incubators Network in general and the incubators in particular.

The project's impact can be measured by the value it delivers to entrepreneurs and the entrepreneurial ecosystem. The Lisbon Incubators Network has created jobs (although not its main goal, it has directly created jobs in startups and also indirectly in other companies and organisations), contributed to economic growth and supported established businesses.

In recognition of these results, the EU Committee of the Regions awarded the title of European Entrepreneurial Region (EER) to Lisbon in 2015. In the same year, Lisboa Empreende (Lisbon Micro-Entrepreneurship) received the Grand Jury Prize at the European Enterprise Promotion Awards (EEPA). Previously, Startup Lisboa had won the national contest phase of the EEPA.

### *Transferability tips for cities willing to implement a similar scheme*

Ideas: Startup Lisboa, one of the key players of the Lisbon Incubators Network, is the brainchild of the citizens (voted on during the approval of Lisbon's participatory budget). It draws on the co-operative participation of creative thinkers in project design, development and implementation.

Skills: Qualified entrepreneurs are key to creating knowledge intensive products and services with high added value. Some of the most innovative startups, accelerators, incubators and fablabs are already led by entrepreneurs with strong intercultural skills gained through academic and professional assignments abroad. This is crucial for internationalising the startups' activities.

Processes: Processes tied to participation, leadership, partnerships, co-creation, networking and internationalisation have allowed the establishment and strengthening of the network.



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Knowledge and expertise: Creating partnerships for sharing specialised knowledge and expertise is just as important for entrepreneurs as mentoring, access to funding, legal accountability or the media.

Technology: Several startups in the Lisbon Incubators Network create technology-based products and services (internet, social media, apps, open data, etc.).

### *References, sources, bibliography*

[www.bestpractices.at/UNECE](http://www.bestpractices.at/UNECE)

Câmara Municipal de Lisboa - Leading Cities: contribution to the co-creation report The Case of the Lisbon Incubators Network, 2013

Câmara Municipal de Lisboa - Lisbon Incubators Network, 2013

OECD - Entrepreneurship at a Glance 2015, OECD Publishing, Paris

[dx.doi.org/10.1787/entrepreneur\\_aag-2015-en](https://dx.doi.org/10.1787/entrepreneur_aag-2015-en)

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### *Website, social media*

Lisbon Incubators Network (Rede de Incubadoras de Lisboa) - [www.incubadoraslisboa.pt](http://www.incubadoraslisboa.pt)

Lisbon Startup City - [lisboastartupcity.pt](http://lisboastartupcity.pt)

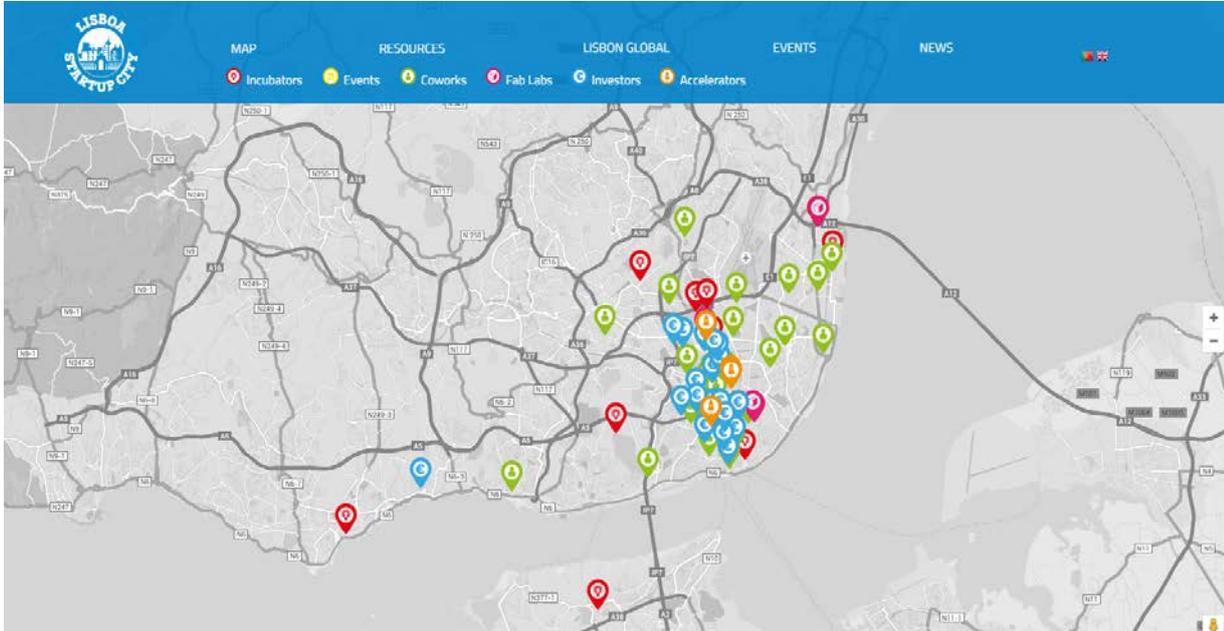
Lisbon City Council (Economy and Innovation) - [www.cm-lisboa.pt/investir](http://www.cm-lisboa.pt/investir)

### *Pictures*



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Picture 1: The Lisbon Incubators Network portal



Picture 2: Paddy Cosgrave of Websummit at Startup Lisboa