

## AN AWARD WINNING METHOD

### THIS IS HOW INPUT SUPPORTED GLOBAL FORUM'S FINALIST

**As the beginning of the ITU Global Innovation Forum approaches, we are increasingly excited to share our experience in the ITU Innovation Challenges finalists mentoring program and provide insights into the INPUT sections of the main event in the ITU community.**

INPUT Program is a high-priority government project financed by the EU, which was established in 2016 by the Hungarian Government with contributions from the EU Regional Development Fund. The Program aims to create and nurture internationally competitive Hungarian tech startups, and to facilitate the growth and transformation of the Hungarian startup ecosystem by encouraging entrepreneurs and helping them build sustainable ventures.

Among our international efforts, being co-organizers of the ITU Telecom World 2019 is a major success in our history. In the Budapest based event, we were honoured to organize a day dedicated to the Hungarian startup ecosystem.

Following the successful collaboration between ITU and the INPUT Program in recent years, this year has reached a new milestone: we are honoured to contribute to the ITU Innovation Challenges through professional mentoring, using the methods and main guidelines of our Mentor Program, which highly contributed to INPUT Program's ecosystem builder activities to be recognized as UN Global Best Practice Program in 2018.

If you want to know more about our organization, we will be delighted to have you in any of our four hosted events during the Global Innovation Forum:

- [Bootstrapping and connecting ecosystems to access needed resources](#) (about building a culture of trust)
- [Develop your ecosystem funding to accelerate scale-up](#) (about acquiring a continuous resource)
- [Frameworks to empower your innovation champions](#) (about developing remarkable companies in your ecosystem with the help of Lean Canvas)
- [Building a startup and innovation culture in your community](#) (about exploring the roles in a community).

The COVID-19 pandemic has reminded us how far-reaching a well-established digital value chain can be in the field of innovation companies. This year at the Global Innovation Forum we are all looking for new ideas to rebuild digital inclusion, **value chains and economy**. Where a door closes another opens; 20 finalists already have a vision about our future in the age of Covid.

Take a look at the following 20 talented project owners who are getting ready to pitch their ideas soon. From our perspective, they have already won an award for being open and brave enough to think outside of the box. It was an inspiring experience helping them by designing and operating the mentoring programme for the Innovation Challenges finalists. All applications were reviewed by professionals who helped to develop the

projects, pointed out the strengths and areas for improvement, and then following a continuous follow-up, the best ones were selected.

Coming next to the final round of the Global Innovation Forum, we set up our mentoring strategy designed to the best 20. For the upcoming bootcamp each of the participants were patronized by a personal mentor, as the next step, they will have the chance to pitch their ideas to each other. By the reflections and inputs given by the fellow participants and mentors, project owners can further develop their ideas in preparation for the finals.

The five-day virtual, immersive event will take us on global and regional learning journeys, with insights from 80+ experts in the field, including ICT ministers, influencers, VCs, entrepreneurs, ecosystem development partners, and corporate change-makers.

We are also proud to announce that on behalf of INPUT Program one of our colleagues Mary Alcantara is going to represent the Hungarian startup ecosystem. Besides the plenty of keynote and round table sessions, we would be more than glad to meet you in the discussions held by our team. **Join us in between 26th to 30th of October and meet with a group of international experts in partnership with INPUT Program.**