

CREATING START-UPS & INNOVATION ON THE UPPER RHINE

Within the framework of the KTUR project, six universities and six universities of applied sciences from the Upper Rhine region in the border triangle of Germany, France and Switzerland have joined forces to create a trinational offer for start-ups and young founders, such as networking and training opportunities.

OPENING EVENT: KTUR STARTUP & INNOVATION NIGHTS

The “KTUR Start-up & Innovation Nights” took place for the first time on April 21-22, 2021. On two consecutive evenings, universities, startups, companies and intermediaries of the Upper Rhine region had the opportunity to get to know each other and to exchange experiences and ideas on how the innovation network in the Upper Rhine region can grow and gain more supraregional attention. More than 250 participants registered for the two evenings, which were then distributed quite evenly among the various events. The first evening included a panel discussion: a total of six guests from different areas (university, politics, business, startup scene, etc.) were invited to discuss future cooperation in the area of technology transfer and start-ups in the Upper Rhine. The second evening belonged to the start-ups and the workshops offered by the KTUR working group: 16 start-ups from the fields of health/life sciences and green tech presented themselves in the two parallel sessions.

KTUR START-UP TALKS

The KTUR Start-up Talks started in spring 2021 as an online event series to promote entrepreneurship specifically among PhD-students and postdocs. The goal of the series is to inspire students to start their own companies and to make it easier for them by getting insider tips and learnings from seasoned entrepreneurs. On average, between 30 and 60 participants attend the virtual lectures. As the feedback to the event was very positive, the organizing team decided to make the whole lunch series sustainable. A second edition of the series followed in fall 2021 and the [third edition](#) will start on March 24, 2022. The target group now also includes Master and Bachelor students from the Upper Rhine region so we achieve a bigger reach. Therefore, the event was renamed from KTUR PhD Talks to KTUR Start-up Talks to be more inclusive.





START-UP COMPETITION SPARK

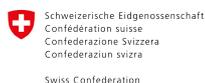
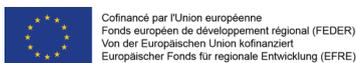
The Foundersclub Freiburg organized the SPARK startup competition for the summer semester 2021 as a trinational event within the framework of the KTUR project. The start-up competition aims to provide students with a low-threshold and supportive approach to the topic of starting a business. The goal was to develop their business idea from scratch and realize it together in an interdisciplinary student team. It began on the May 15, 2021 with the kick-off and ended on July 17, 2021 with the Demo Day. During these 9 weeks, 13 teams and ideas were accompanied. In the end, all 13 teams pitched their impressive results in front of a jury. The teams were supported in the implementation of their idea by members of the Founderclub, the mentors (some of whom were founders themselves and also experts and partners from the KTUR team), through the community events and various workshops.

KTUR SUMMER SCHOOL

From Aug. 30 to Sept. 3, approx. 30 students and PhDs from 8 KTUR partner universities and 12 different nationalities came together in Freiburg, Basel and Strasbourg for the first KTUR Summer School on Entrepreneurship to get a compact insight into how to turn an idea into a business – an inspiring experience for all parties involved! The participants formed multicultural and interdisciplinary groups and worked on six very different business ideas, ranging from the field of biotechnology to the field of solar mobility. Lecturers, coaches and entrepreneurs from the KTUR network supported them with their expertise. On the final day, the groups pitched their project and received feedback from the jury, who awarded two prizes: best project and best team performance. Due to the great success of this format, a [second edition](#) will take place from Aug. 29 to Sept. 2, 2022. [The registration is now open.](#)

KTUR ENTREPRENEURIAL EDUCATION: DESIGN THINKING WORKSHOP

The Design Thinking Workshop “Empathize and turn your findings into a business idea!” for students, researchers and entrepreneurs took place in two sessions on November 19 and 22, 2021. Participants experienced the entire “need finding phase” of the Design Thinking process and, step-by-step, turned their findings into a business idea. 13 participants formed a successful group and took part on the valuable trinational event. A second edition of the workshop will take place from March 21-24, 2022.



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