

Our energetic community consists of both student-led and university-run entrepreneurial activities. For example, both one of the world's leading startup events, Slush, and Europe's leading tech hackathon, Junction, were born at Aalto's student community

entrepreneurship._____
ecosystem._____



Aalto Startup Center

alumni data*

€630m

The current annual turnover of businesses, which has increased sixfold over 20 years

2/3

The proportion of alumni businesses still operating today

8%

The additional profitability margin of Aalto Startup Center alumni companies compared to their Finnish peers

AALTO INNOVATION ECOSYSTEM YEARLY HIGHLIGHTS

- 200+ commissioned projects from companies
- 100+ companies founded
- 150+ invention disclosures submitted
- 50+ patent applications filed
- 25+ technology transfers completed

33%

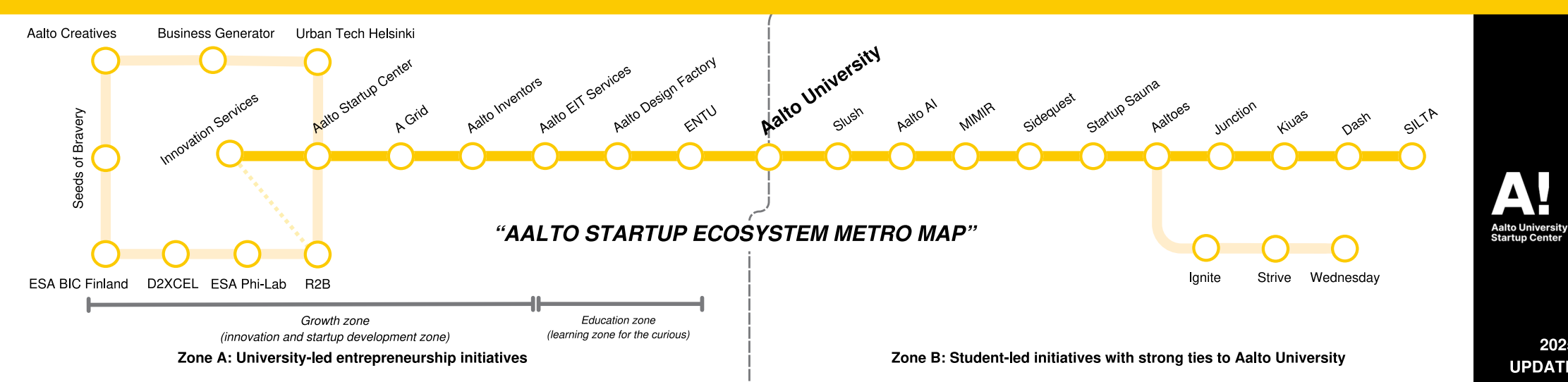
of Finnish unicorns are alumni-founded from Aalto University

Ranked 3rd

most active organization in patent applications in Finland in 2023, Aalto University continues to lead in innovation and research



the inspiring ecosystem.



2025
UPDATE

Aalto Startup Center

A top-tier hybrid accelerator in Finland, Aalto Startup Center has over 27 years of experience nurturing thriving startups. It combines innovative programs with strategic partnerships to support sustainable deep-tech startups driven by pioneering research. Programs under Aalto Startup Center include ESA BIC Finland, ESA Phi-lab Finland, Research-to-Business (R2B), Business Generator, Urban Tech Helsinki, Aalto Digital Creatives, Seeds of Bravery, and D2XCEL

ENTU (Entrepreneurship Unit at Aalto School of Business)

A unit from Aalto University explores entrepreneurship as a multifaceted socio-economic phenomenon through education and research

Aalto Design Factory (ADF)

An interdisciplinary product design and learning hub that unites students, teachers, researchers, and industry to foster a passion-based learning culture at Aalto University

Aalto EIT Services

A team of experts who advise, assist and support all Aalto University stakeholders in their interactions with the EIT ecosystem

Aalto Inventors

Aalto Inventors is a field-specific training program designed for researchers who are not yet engaged in the Aalto innovation pipeline and who want to explore the societal and commercial potential of their research

A Grid

A Grid, located at the core of Aalto University Campus, stands as one of Europe’s biggest startup hubs, linking startups and founders with university resources, talented students, cutting-edge research, and infrastructure to foster future unicorns. There are over 160 startups, accelerators, makerspace and key influential stakeholders in A Grid

Innovation Services (IS)

A unit that supports researchers and the Aalto community in developing inventions and commercialization activities. IS manages intellectual property (IP) protection and executes technology transfers with industrial companies, from startups to international corporations

Slush

A leading global startup summit connecting European startups, world-class investors, and tech journalists with actionable insights and practical advice for building startups

Aalto AI

A student-led society at Aalto University, cultivates a vibrant AI community through workshops, talks, and networking events for students, researchers, and industry professionals

Startup Sauna

A student entrepreneurial hub, Startup Sauna hosts key organizations like Junction, DASH, Aaltoes, Silta, fostering innovation and collaboration among startups

MIMIR

Making the Nordics global leaders in research commercialization with students leading

Sidequest

Sidequest offers a home for side projects. Join the free 6-week program and start building

Aalto Entrepreneurship Society (Aaltoes)

Aaltoes is the largest and most active student-run community. It raises the next generation of founders through exceptional projects and programs like Ignite, Strive, and Wednesday

Junction

A recognized global tech hackathon, Junction hosts hackathons in multiple countries, with a final event in Finland gathering over 1500 participants to foster creativity and rapid prototyping

Kiuas

A top-notch startup accelerator in Finland, Kiuas aims to empower early-stage founders to create impactful companies by providing world-class support and resources for their growth

Dash

A premier design hackathon in Europe, the DASH hackathon applies design thinking to solve real-world business problems through multidisciplinary teamwork

Silta

A pioneering program, SILTA sends top founders from Finland to the SF Bay Area for three months to develop their companies in Silicon Valley’s dynamic environment

“We renew our society with research-based knowledge, creativity, and an entrepreneurial mindset. We generate innovative solutions to tackle global grand challenges.”
— Aalto University’s impact-related joint strategic plans for 2025-2028