

## Building the startup ecosystem in South Tyrol

23 May 2019

Last Friday was a special day: tba network participated in 3 different events all showcasing South Tyrol's upcoming startup ecosystem.

Early in the morning we gathered with 40 experienced entrepreneurs and managers for Startbase Bolzano's first **"Innovation Breakfast"**. Key speaker was Alberto Baban, serial entrepreneur and founder of VeNetWork. VeNetWork is a group of 50 entrepreneurs, all from the North of Italy, who team up to invest in so called "re-startups".



Targets include smaller companies with interesting products that VeNetWork wants to energize by inserting new, ambitious teams that invest in technology and people. In his speech Alberto emphasized the urgent need to change the B-to-C model into a C-to-B model. According to Alberto this implies a total focus of entrepreneurs on customer needs and a strong reshaping-effort of supply chains through technology and data.

Two hours later, we attended the **"Founder's Day"**, an annual event organized by the Chamber of Commerce in Bolzano. It was fascinating to see around one hundred 18-year-olds interested in founding companies and learning from the pros.

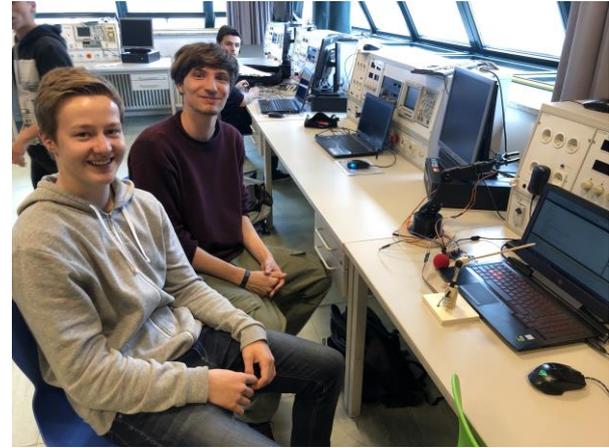


Our member Erich Falkensteiner of Falkensteiner Ventures delivered an excellent speech advising the young guns in the audience to identify for their new startups very clear needs for society and to form strong, complementary teams able to withstand adversity that always comes with an entrepreneurial journey.

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We had to rush, because next on our program was a visit to the annual “**Project Days**” of technical high-school TFO Max Valier, the hotbed of tech-talent in South Tyrol. And what we saw made us feel optimistic: very cool digital products (one of them targeting the management of associations and sports clubs); programmed DIY-robots and even a home-built satellite that now surrounds planet Earth every 90 minutes.



What's next? Now it's tba network's turn to connect the dots!!