

WHY START-UP

in the TopDutch region

1.

**a nation of
start-ups**

1. A nation of start-ups

- The Netherlands is one of the top-10 countries globally for start-ups, according to StartupBlink's Global Ecosystem Index 2023.
- We're a small country but our start-ups are making a big impact, having among the highest start-up density and VC capitalization share in the EU.
- WIPO ranked us the third strongest market in terms of finance for start-ups and scale-ups on their Global Innovation Index 2022.

2. Fastest growing ecosystem

- Within the Netherlands, the TopDutch region is a hotspot for impactful new start-ups, the birthplace of unicorns such as HackerOne.
- We host the nation's fastest growing start-up ecosystem, with Groningen's cluster expanding by an average of 12% YoY since 2018.
- Our innovation institutions are dedicated to supporting more high-quality start-ups, from pre-seed to scale-up, via four pillars of development: 1) Access to talent; 2) Access to technology; 3) Access to market and 4) Access to capital.

2.

**fastest growing
ecosystem**

3.

**unique start-up visa
program**

3. Unique start-up visa program

- The Start-Up Visa NL program is a unique accelerator program that allows the brightest entrepreneurial talent from non-EU/EEA countries to start-up in the TopDutch region.
- Entrepreneurs can spend a year on the startup visa, establishing their business and skills together with a local facilitator.
- After the year, entrepreneurs can apply for a long-term visa, and we'll provide support in accessing further financing, partners, or business development programs.

4.

**supportive programs
& financing**

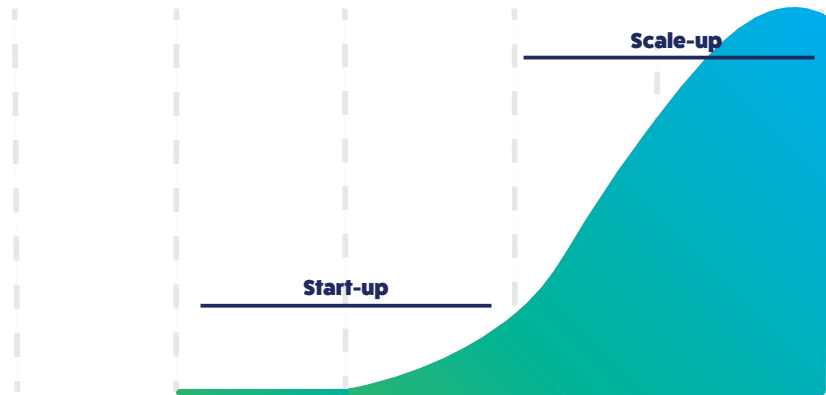
4. Supportive programs and financing

- From pre-seed to scale-up, our services and programs support entrepreneurial talent to take the first step, inviting promising internationals to join us, and facilitating their development via incubators and training.

**More information
about our start-up
ecosystem?**



OUR PROGRAMS & FINANCING OPTIONS



Life stage	STAGE 0	STAGE 1	STAGE 2	STAGE 3	STAGE 4	
Technology Readiness Level	1-3	4-6	7-9			
Characteristics	Experimental PoC	PoC	Customers at commercial price	Sales to early adopters Positive cashflow	Sales to early majority Scale-up	Sales to late majority Continuity
Forms of financing	Grants	PoC fund	Venture Capital		Private Equity	
		RvO early stage	Angel Network		Strategic Investors	
			Institutional Investors			
Programs	FSE/ FEB RUG	Market Readiness Program	Boost up			
	Venture Lab North	Investor Readiness Program				
	Startup Readiness Program	Bestart				