

MCC International Symposium on Innovation and Startup Ecosystems: From Startup nation to Scaleup nation

Organised by the Centre for Next Technological Futures of Mathias Corvinus Collegium,
Budapest, on March 1st and 2nd, 2023

Amiram Porath, Amiram Porath Consulting, Tel Aviv

Consultant regarding innovation to company, research organizations and governments. With work experience for research organizations in Technology transfer units, industry in various sectors as innovation manager in government as manager of national R&D programs. PhD in management regarding the formation of industry academy R&D consortia. Published several books on national programs and the formation of such national programs, as well as articles on similar topics.

Andy David, Director, Innovation Task Force, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Tel Aviv

Dr. Andy David is a career diplomat and currently is the Director of the Innovation Task Force in Israel's Ministry of Foreign Affairs aiming to create an innovative process of organizational entrepreneurship. Previously he created and managed the department of Innovation Entrepreneurship and Technology, focusing on execution of the strategic efforts of globalizing Israel's successful innovation and technology ecosystem through international partnerships. He served a five-year term as the Consul General of Israel in San Francisco, Silicon Valley and the US Pacific North-West, and additional missions in Chicago, Hong Kong & Macao, and Azerbaijan.

Domestically, he served as a policy advisor to the foreign minister, as a spokesperson and as the director of international development cooperation projects in Central Asia and Eastern Europe. Additionally, he is an active LP investor in two Silicon Valley based VC's, and an advisor on global affairs for Arieli Capital holding. He holds a B.Sc. & M.Sc. in medical sciences and a doctorate in dental medicine, Magna Cum Laude. He graduated various executive programs in management of global operations, Health-tech, PR & media relations, brand management, digital diplomacy, international relations, Military diplomacy, and international counter terrorism. He served in the Israeli Air Force and in RAFAEL – Israel's Armament Development Authority. Dr. David is married and a proud father of three children.

Danny Biran, policy fellow, Start-up Nation Policy Institute, Tel Aviv

Danny Biran is an experienced business and technology leader. He now serves as a senior policy fellow at Startup Nation Policy Institute (SNPI) which focuses on innovation policies, a managing partner of Silicon Catalyst, a semiconductor-focused incubator, and an advisor to several technology and medical devices companies in Israel, US, and India. In 2017-2018 Danny served as VP, International Division of the Israel Innovation Authority, responsible for establishing and managing Israel's international innovation and R&D partnerships.

Prior to that Danny had a long career mainly in the semiconductor industry. Between 2005 – 2016 he worked for Altera, a public company, most recently as Senior VP of Marketing and Strategy. At Altera he led all the business units, marketing, technical services, and corporate

development. He left Altera following its acquisition by Intel. Prior to Altera Danny was President & CEO of Silverback Systems, and before that he held various leadership positions at LSI Logic and National Semiconductor. Danny holds a BSEE (cum laude) and an MBA (summa cum laude) from the Tel Aviv University.

Daniel Bajer, Director for Business Development, Enterprise Estonia, Tallinn

With over 15 years of experience, Daniel Bajer is an adviser to start-ups, implementing innovation and supporting international expansion. Currently he is working as the director for business development in Poland as part of the Enterprise Estonia international export team helping Estonian entrepreneurs to expand globally and promoting Estonia as the most innovative nation around the globe and the welcoming start up ecosystem.

Eitan Kyiet, CEO of Road2, Haifa

Eitan Kyiet serves as the CEO of Road2, an innovative value-added hub with AI-supercomputer abilities. Previously Eitan held senior management positions in publicly traded companies such as Vice President of Business Development at Kamada (NASDAQ:KMDA), Chief Operating Officer at PolyPid (NASDAQ:PYPD), senior operations and business planning position in Biosense Webster (a Johnson and Johnson Company) as well as several business development and strategic alliance positions with Lumenis (NASDAQ: LUMI).

Mr. Kyiet started his career as a commercial lawyer where he gained over 13-year experience as a legal practitioner specializing in the hi-tech and medical device arenas in international transactions, venture, capital funds, investments, corporate law, and mergers and acquisitions both as a partner in a major law firm and as legal counsel to Elbit Ltd. (NASDAQ: ELBTF). In parallel to his business activities, for the past 15 years, Eitan has led Friendly Angels Club, an angel investment group that boasts several IPOs, M&A and significant venture capital up-rounds. Mr. Kyiet holds an L.L.B. degree from Haifa University and a master's degree in Business Management from Haifa University Graduate School of Business.

Molly Livingstone, Ecosystem Manager, MassChallenge Israel, Jerusalem

Molly Livingstone creates alternative methods for startups and early-stage tech to make its way into the international market. Building community, credibility and brand awareness for recently founded startups, Molly empowers founders, CEOs and researchers to find their authentic story and then share it with the world. Through fun, risk and failures, she provides support and strategy for new companies to build a social media presence, online footprint and make their way into the media, in the search for the spotlight, investors and success in the market.

Patrick Grady, policy analyst, Center for Data Innovation, Information Technology & Innovation Foundation (ITIF), Washington D.C.

Patrick Grady is a policy analyst at the Center for Data Innovation, focusing on AI and content moderation. He also authors the Metaverse.EU, a newsletter covering metaverse policy and business in the EU. Previously, he was the project lead at the Internet Commission and worked in strategy at the European Institute of Innovation and Technology. Patrick holds masters' in philosophy and political science.

Stephen Ezell, Vice president, global innovation policy, Information Technology & Innovation Foundation (ITIF), Washington D.C.

Stephen Ezell is Vice President, Global Innovation Policy with the Information Technology and Innovation Foundation (ITIF), a Washington-DC based science, technology, and economic policy think tank as well as Director of ITIF's Center for Life-sciences Innovation. He also leads the Global Trade and Innovation Policy Alliance. His areas of expertise include science and technology policy, international competitiveness, trade, manufacturing, and bioeconomy issues.

Yoav Barlev, Director, Business Development, Start-up Nation Central, Tel Aviv

As Director of Business Development at Start-Up Nation Central (SNC), Yoav is assisting Fortune 500 and Global 2000 companies plan and execute their innovation strategy in Israel's Tech Ecosystem. Having worked closely with dozens of business units and innovation teams, Yoav has had the privilege to be the key player in establishing successful partnerships between multinational companies and startups, incubators or with other corporate innovation hubs.

Previously, Yoav lead a strategic role in SNC, to help identify and support high-growth sectors. The goal was to accelerate the performance of underserved sectors in Israel by exposing the opportunities to various stakeholders and helping them formulate partnerships that will ultimately support the development of Israel's Innovation Ecosystem.

Prior to joining Start-Up Nation Central, Yoav founded Mint Clinic, a Med-Tech start-up aimed at providing access to premium healthcare services for busy working professionals. Although the start-up achieved early traction of several Fortune 100 clients, the company closed after 2.5 years of operations. Still, it was a great experience and challenge, which Yoav does not regret and if given the chance, would do it all over again (with slight improvements to the business model). Yoav also lived in Panama for several years, managing and operating investment portfolios for clients of Dekel Holdings, a multi-national development and hospitality company. Yoav holds a B.S. in Mechanical Engineering from the University of California in San Diego (UCSD), and an MBA from Tel Aviv University.

Jon Steinberg, Partner, Mountside Ventures, London

Jon Steinberg is a Founding Partner of Mountside Ventures, and is on a mission to optimise the fundraising process between European startups and investors. He advises early-stage companies and VC fund managers on their next raise. As a Chartered Accountant (ACA) he has a background in supporting companies in raising their Seed-to-Series-B rounds across the spectrum of stages and sectors. Jon is keen on making the world a better place through technology.

Mountside Ventures is an award-winning advisory firm, specialised in early-stage fundraising and exits, on a mission to optimise the fundraising process for founders and funds. We partner with the most ambitious entrepreneurs raising their Next Round of funding, minimising the disruption to their business. We do this by helping them get investor-ready, introducing them to relevant investors, and supporting them in closing their round with terms that are right for them. We also help forward-looking Limited Partners identify top-tier Venture Fund Managers to promote the flow of venture capital into the European ecosystem.

Tessa McIver, Head of Alumni Development, MIT Enterprise Forum CEE, Warsaw

Tessa oversees the MIT Enterprise Forum CEE Alumni Club – a prestigious group of over 150 CEE startups (and growing annually) who have successfully completed the Acceleration programme and are on their way to scaling their innovative businesses. The club provides an interactive ecosystem for further growth, knowledge sharing and creating partnerships – with the alumni, mentors and corporate partners.

Tessa has a background in Business Development and Event Management, gained at prestigious international companies and has also worked with numerous startups/scaleups. She holds an Executive MBA from the Warsaw University of Technology Business School, as well as degrees from the Jagiellonian University, Kraków and the University of Bristol.

Ramón Compano, Senior Scientist, Joint Research Centre of the European Commission, Seville, <https://www.linkedin.com/in/ramon-compa%C3%B1o-a683722/>