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**RIISING INNOVATION &  
EMERGING TALENTS**

**FROM  
THE  
EAST**

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**KYRGYZSTAN**

***ECOSYSTEM OVERVIEW***

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# KYRGYZSTAN ECOSYSTEM OVERVIEW

## KEY ATTRIBUTES OF THE STARTUP ECOSYSTEM

The Kyrgyz startup ecosystem is still in its earliest stage of development, so access to information is limited. Both the challenges and the structure of the ecosystem are difficult to see clearly. However, many ecosystem actors (private or public) are by now already at the right place and are striving to perform at a high level. Currently the driving forces of the development are mainly provided by the government, so the innovation ecosystem predominantly relies on the supportive contribution of the state and other international organizations. The most significant challenges in the country are finding a suitable, highly skilled workforce and a lack of venture capital.

Government agencies, state funded organizations responsible for the development of startup ecosystems:

### **High Technology Park of the Kyrgyz Republic (HTP)** (est. 2008)

HTP is a special tax zone\* that supports: domestic high technology industries, computer science and education, the export oriented economy. HTP also provides acceleration programs for IT startups. The special services cover the following areas: web- and software development, IT & network, sales, marketing, big data, blockchain development and interactive centers. *\*until 2028 Hi-Tech Park residents are exempt from taxes and insurance premium payments, the income tax rate for employees of resident companies is 5%.*

<http://htp.kg/>

### **State Intellectual Property and Innovation Service** under the ПКР Kyrgyzpatent

Kyrgyzpatent promotes the development of innovation and startup ecosystem of the country, programs and projects aimed at the development of the startup community, startup competencies, creating mechanisms for financing startups, access to markets,

getting access to infrastructure for prototyping, testing, finding highly qualified IT professionals and other projects.

[www.patent.kg](http://www.patent.kg) < [www.innovate.kg](http://www.innovate.kg)>

### **State Innovation Center**

The first State Innovation Center was opened in Kyrgyzstan in 2021. The Innovation Center was created at the premises of the State Patent and Technical Library under the State Agency for Intellectual Property and Innovation (Kyrgyzpatent). The Center encompasses the following units:

- Fablab: a production laboratory for prototyping and proofing ideas,
- Youth iLab: children's laboratory,
- coworking area,
- conference room with modern equipments,
- meeting rooms,
- patent and technical fund.

## **STARTUP INCUBATORS AND ACCELERATORS IN KYRGYZSTAN**

**State Intellectual Property and Innovation Service** with the promotion of the Government of Kyrgyzstan, **Kyrgyzpatent** conducts regular competitions named „Startup Kyrgyzstan“. The selected projects can participate in the acceleration program where they can get funding. Kyrgyzpatent also provides other programs and projects aiming the development of the startup community and startup competencies (see above).

**PEAK Business Innovation Centre** – which is the result of PEAK Enterprise and Innovation Programme – is the UK Government's new instrument to promote a stronger, diversified and inclusive private sector, leading to prosperity and stability in the Kyrgyzstan and Tajikistan by increasing innovation and growth in startups and MSMEs through the establishment of business and innovation centres and improving the business advisory infrastructure. PEAK offers Kyrgyz startups a variety of different programmes and services: incubation and acceleration programmes; business consultations and mentoring on legal, tax, accounting, marketing; co-working spaces.

<https://peak.kg/en/>>

**Business Accelerator Accelerate Prosperity** is an initiative of the Aga Khan Organization in Central and South Asia (Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan, and Pakistan). Accelerate Prosperity offers technical expertise, creative financing solutions and market connections for small and growing businesses in emerging regions.

Since 2016, Accelerate Prosperity has supported promising young entrepreneurs through business modelling, 1:1 coaching from staff, mentorship and networking with entrepreneurs, investment readiness, seed and growth financing, investors services and trade facilitation.

[https://kg.accelerateprosperity.org/en\\_new](https://kg.accelerateprosperity.org/en_new)

**USAID office in Kyrgyzstan** implements its programs for startups, including acceleration programs. In 2019, the Business Accelerator program from the USAID Competitive Enterprise project was launched.

<https://www.usaid.gov/kyrgyz-republic>

**John Galt Business Incubator** is the first Kyrgyz business incubator and accelerator that helps founders build the best companies in the Central Asian region. John Galt is a venture capital arm of the ololo group of companies. Services cover co-working spaces, mentorship and access to its own network of contacts.

<http://ololo.city/> <https://www.linkedin.com/company/johngaltvc/about/>

**KG Labs Public Foundation.** Mission of KG Labs is to boost the tech ecosystem/ entrepreneurship in Kyrgyzstan. Mentors will help participants improve their ideas and then the projects will be presented to investors. Due to the work of KG Labs a detailed ICT ecosystem database is created and updated. It is also available for the wider public:

<https://kglabs.org/kyrgyz-startup-ecosystem/>

### **Association of Business Angels of Central Asia**

The mission of ABA of Central Asia is to amplify the regional investment market, the regulatory dialogue and to boost entrepreneurship in Central Asia through uniting the investor community and building an educational and collaboration Platform. Association Objectives are listed below:

1. To merge the voice of the Regional Angel Investor Community, to consolidate investment efforts of the angel investors in Central Asia, to represent their interests, to hold events, to advocate for legal considerations, to create and ensure the quality of industry-related best practices as well as to educate and to increase the level of knowledge of the community about the role of angel investors in the economy.
2. To assist entrepreneurs and the startup in finding each other, making possible syndicated angel deals by providing the latest technology solutions in investment management.

3. To create an educational platform for startups and angels of the Central Asian region.

<<https://www.linkedin.com/company/association-of-business-angels-of-central-asia/about/>>

<<https://www.abaca.pro/>>

## STRATEGIES CATALYZING THE DEVELOPMENT OF STARTUPS AND INNOVATION IN KYRGYZSTAN:

- Concept „Digital Kyrgyzstan“, 2019–2023. Objectives of the concept: to create new opportunities for the population through the development of digital skills; to provide quality digital services; to ensure economic growth through the digital transformation of priority sectors of the economy, strengthening of international partnerships and the creation of new economic clusters.
- “Taza koom” will serve the further development of digital technologies in the economic/social transformation of the country.

## REMARKABLE STARTUPS:

**Fanki** is starting its first sales and looking for funding. Fanki’s corporate HR portal increases the efficiency of employee interactions and saves time for managers and HR managers. Fanki’s dashboard helps employees plan their own day and improves communication between them.

<<https://fankihr.com/>>

**Mad Devs** is specialised for projects requiring the individual technical solutions. The goal is long-term strategic cooperation with clients and providing IT services.

<<https://maddevs.io/about/>>

**MUO MakeUseOf** was founded in 2007, MUO has grown into one of the largest online technology publications on the web. Our expertise in all things tech has resulted in millions of visitors every month and hundreds of thousands of fans on social media.

<<https://www.makeuseof.com/>>

**Groovi Web** (Grooviweb.com)

In December 2015, Groovy Web emerged as a fully grown IT services firm under the encouraging leadership of our founders who paved the Way to Excellence and Progress for their team members to follow. Mission of the company: We want to help businesses

ranging from startups to enterprises, who reach out to us with their requirements, in achieving great lengths, expanding their reach, upscaling their products, and generate a large user-base with our outstanding and cost-effective services.

<https://www.groovyweb.co/about-us>

**Growave** (est. 2014) is the all-in-one marketing platform that helps Shopify brands reach their audience, engage users and increase conversions with ease.

<https://growave.io/> <https://www.linkedin.com/company/growave-io/>

**Skalfa** The company has been empowering customers with reliable software products since 2004. Their current focus is on business applications for customers on the web and mobile platforms. They build a technical team to tailor to the customers' business process and lead them all the way to superhero status.

<https://skalfa.com/>

#### **SVETOFOR**

AI powered leading ecommerce platform (marketplace) in Central Asia, Best online shopping experience in Kyrgyzstan. Dedicated to delight its customers, Svetofor has a 99.5% satisfaction rate and over hundred thousands of happy clients all over Kyrgyz Republic and beyond. Today, Svetofor is a group of companies that provides all services for merchants required to fulfill customer orders and requests.

<https://www.linkedin.com/company/svetofor/about/> <<https://svetofor.info/>>

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