

Digital Single Market

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The Digital Champion of Bulgaria Gergana Passy establishes Advisory Board of young and successful IT entrepreneurs

The Digital Champion of Bulgaria Gergana Passy establishes Advisory Board of the most successful IT entrepreneurs in Bulgaria. Together they will work towards strengthening the startup community in the country and provide smoother communication between the entrepreneurs and the European institutions. Mrs. Passy announced the news during the Startup Conference 2012 in Sofia, Bulgaria. In her opinion entrepreneurs represent the new image of business. Unsure whether Bulgaria could become the Silicon Valley of the Balkans, Gergana Passy expressed her certainty that the startup community has the potential and talent to drive the whole public organization forward. These are people full of innovative and unconventional ideas who are aware that Internet and IT industry will continue growing over the next decades. In times of crisis taking into account that Europe will have more than half a million vacancies for IT professionals they are one step ahead.

Gergana Passy gathers a team of advisers who will help her present the startup community to the European Commission. The advisory team includes:

Adel Zakout - his project Open Buildings (www.openbuildings.com) won first prize at the European entrepreneurs competition: Intel Challenge Europe 2010. the project is established by the model of Wikipedia and represents a list of buildings from around the world - historical, contemporary, conceptual, providing an easy way for sharing and storing architectural knowledge.

Vassil Terziev - founder and partner of the most powerful Bulgarian software company - Telerik. Telerik Academy (www.academy.telerik.com) organizes courses in computer programming for beginners and advanced software developers free of charge.

Luben Belov - founder of NetInfo in 1998, co-founder of LAUNCHub (www.launchub.com), which is a € 9 million fund established to invest, develop, and enlarge startup companies in the sector of internet and communication technologies in Southeastern Europe.

Maxim Gurvits - from legal adviser at the European Commission to publication manager in Wolters Kluwer Publishers, partner at ELEVEN (www.eleven.bg) - fund for risk investment in startup companies.

Boyan Benev - In 2007 named as the best young entrepreneur by the British magazine Business and Economics "Start Your Business Magazine". Chairman of the recently formed cluster for

entrepreneurship and innovation in Bulgaria.

Steve Kyle – director and founder of Xentio (www.xentio.com).

Chris Georgiev – Online entrepreneur, co-founder of Gravity Web. Partner in StokPodium (www.stockpodium.com) – bank for stock-photos in which you can search by visual detail.

Alexander Mihaylov – founder of Betahaus Sofia (www.betahaus.bg), the first of its kind workspace for young entrepreneurs (coworking space).

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