



# Supporting rural businesses to innovate

**11<sup>th</sup> OECD Rural Development  
Conference, Edinburgh 10<sup>th</sup> April  
2018**



Can it get  
any more







# 1960 > 2011

Idanha Municipality lost  
**68%** of its population

**6.2** inhabitants / km<sup>2</sup>  
(area: 1 400 km<sup>2</sup>)





A Problem?  
or  
Opportunity?

# About BGI



- Launched 2010 Innovation & Entrepreneurship Initiative to commercialize promising science and technology
- Spin out of the MIT Portugal Program (2013), a 10 year collaboration with MIT
- 8 year experience as a Technology Transfer Accelerator
- Strong track record & global network of over 200 international partner institutions
- Initial Venture investment vehicle (7.6 Mio €), now launching fund II (5.5 Mio €).

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# TOP 100 accelerators Worldwide – Hot Topics

## Top 20 accelerators in Europe - Fundacity



### TOP 20 ACTIVE ACCELERATORS IN 2014

This ranking is based on the number of startups accelerated in 2014. It is important to highlight the fact that not all accelerators invest money in the startups that enter their programs.



## Building Global Innovators© (BGI)

in the  
TOP 100 GLOBAL LEADERS  
accelerating the companies of  
tomorrow



A	Gonçalo Agra Amorim   MIT Portugal	Bikesh Lakhmichand   1337 Accelerator
	Moufak Ahmed   Veturi Venture Accelerator	Rose Lewis   Collider
	Simon Alexandre   Nest'up	Nektarios Liolios   StartupBootCamp Fintech
	Saeed Amidi   Plug & Play Spain	Paolo Lombardi   Techpeaks
	Angelos Angelou   International Accelerator	
B	Trent Bagnall   Slingshot Accelerator	Cedric Maloux   StartupYard
	Mihovil Barančić   ZIP (Digital Entrepreneurship Institute)	Philip Marais   Stellenbosch's Launch Lab
	Peter Barth   IronYard	Hugh Mason   JFDI Asia
	Ravi Belani   Alchemist Accelerator	Jan Matern   Emerge Venture Lab
	Greg Bettinelli   MuckerLab	Dave McClure   500 Startups
	Fadi Bishara   Blackbox	Ian Merricks   Accelerator Academy
	Anvydas Bloze   Startup.lt	Ramez Mohamed   FlatLabs
	David Bookspan   Dreamit Ventures	Ravi Narayan   Microsoft Ventures Accelerator
	Peter Borchers   hubraum	Alessandro Nasini   Startalia
	Paul Bricault   Amplify.LA	Jari Ogniben   Industrio Ventures
	Faisal Butt   PI Labs	



## Idanha's Ambition:

1. **Competence center for food production with minimal environmental impact**
2. **Create a strong and undisputed ecosystem in 'bio' production,**
3. **To be a success case, an example of good practice in rural development.**

## 10y horizon KPI's:

- **50+ new, highly sustainable, high value agri-food businesses**
  - **1 000 FTE's in the region**
  - **800ha land use to high added value**
  - **Attract over 25 M€ of outside investments in the region**
- **Re-location into the region of 200 families (ie. 750 people)**





## 1. i-Danha Food Lab Accelerator

# i-Danha Food Lab Accelerator

An usual accelerator focused on developing sustainable solutions:-

## AgriTech:

Sustainable agriculture in all value chain, eg. precision agriculture

## FoodTech:

Low CO2 gastronomy, using macrobiotics food and endogenous resources

## Food Distribution:

New channels for low carbon footprint food distribution. Eg. Digitisation of food distribution.





## **i-Danha Food Lab Accelerator:**

Batch 1 Results (closed Dec. 2017):

- 32 applications received
- 6 start-ups successfully commercializing their products
- 200h of specialized mentoring
- 11 workshops on sustainable land use themes.
- 4 pilots closed.





## I-Danha Food Lab Accelerator

- **2 Tracks:** tech-based & traditional businesses (internationalization focus)
- **Expert Mentoring:** 10 week program
- **Pilot focus:** Access to “Land bank” (564ha) for a period of up to 3 years
- **3-month free incubation** (inc. accommodation)
- **€15k / selected team** (5k€ in cash).







## i-Danha Food Lab Annual Event

Over 200 participants;

15 portuguese speakers

13 international speakers

12 investors

11 corporates

26 media mentions

74 startups (78% International, 22% Portuguese)

Presence of the Minister of the Environment,  
Secretary of State Ministry Science Technology & HE  
President of Idanha



Watch the video of the event here:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=zxBTHNe8JaA>





New flagship project (under development):

# From 0 to 114.

## 5 year KPIs:

- 50% reduction in illiteracy and inactive population
- 50% reduction in School&HE drop out
- 50% increase in the employment rate
- 66% of the local student retention (stay local)
- Multidisciplinary approach, high long term impact
- 3y funding sought: 18M€



# Challenge for reflection

**What incentives are required to leverage private investment and engage private actors in supporting rural businesses?**



Thank you for  
your attention

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