

**Interreg  
Europe**



Co-funded by  
the European Union

**VIADUCT**

Promotion of  
entrepreneurial culture  
Regional context &  
Good Practices

**Kaunas, Lithuania**

8th April 2025

**TECH-PARK**  
K A U N A S



# Promotion of entrepreneurial culture: Regional Map



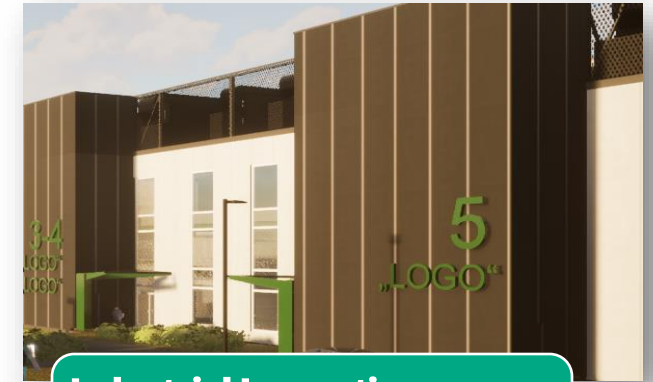
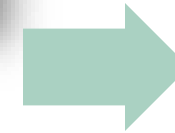
**Universities:** VDU MINDED, LSMU Innovation Centre, KTU Startup Space

- **Main mission:** fostering entrepreneurial mindset, early-stage startup support
- **Value proposition:** talent pool, academic environment and infrastructure (research centers and laboratories)



**Business incubator:** Tech-Park Kaunas

- **Main mission:** successful business development and growth
- **Value proposition:** modern office, TDC and business lab infrastructure, facilitated incubation program, mentoring



**Industrial Innovation zone:** Aleksotas Innovation Park

- **Main mission:** development of higher value-added industries by attracting investment and developing R&D
- **Value proposition:** strong innovators community, modern infrastructure, business incubator, research and study institutions involvement

# Promotion of entrepreneurial culture: Strengths & Weaknesses



**Growing city:** > 392 K inhabitants

**Well-connected:** airport, rail, road infrastructure

**Talent pool:**

7 universities, 6 colleges, 13 vocational schools

> 41 K students

~ 52 % represents STEAM

**International dimension:**

act locally, think globally

**Value proposition:** bringing partners and sponsors together - networking and developing long-term partnerships

**Stable financial measures:**

infrastructure development, business support services

# Good Practice: Kaunas Startup Awards

## 2005 – ongoing

Kaunas represents one of the most rapidly developing startup ecosystems.

**Kaunas Startups Awards** rewards startups, creating meaningful national and global innovations.

### The key objectives are:

- identify and promote;
- involve society members;
- present and share best business and science collaboration practices;
- motivate future entrepreneurs.



# Kaunas Startup Awards: The process

## I. Open call

- Representatives of Kaunas Science and Technology Park, Kaunas IN, Vytautas Magnus University, Lithuanian University of Health Sciences, Kaunas University of Technology Startup Space are submitting their candidates for the open competition.
- **39** nominations (2024).

## II. Election

- **Pre-validation:** fulfill start-up definition, demonstrating innovation or breakthrough ideas.
- **Jury vote** selects the developers who have contributed the most to the creation of the innovation ecosystem. **12** selected (3 per each nomination)
- **An open vote** in the mass media portal/webpage: all portal readers (society members) are voting for the greatest breakthrough innovation.

## III. Award ceremony

- The winners of the Kaunas Startups Awards are **announced at an awards ceremony** by the end of each year at Tech-Park Kaunas annual event, which is broadcast live on the online media platform.



# Kaunas Startup Awards: Nominations categories



## ★ **Startup of the Year**

Whether it's an investment or something that takes your breath away, this start-up has recently experienced something really BIG. And we want to celebrate this giant leap with them.

## ★ **Rookie of the Year**

Every year, new ideas are born, quietly and imperceptibly at first. One sunny day, they appear out of thin air, overwhelm the ecosystem, and make us marvel at their ambition and vision.

## ★ **Scale Up of the Year**

The name of a start-up hardly describes their achievements. They are fast-rising and driven champions of growth with big ambitions for the future!

## ★ **Deep Tech Startup of the Year**

The nomination recognises those who are developing innovative R&D and deep-tech solutions that can transform not only industries, but also the lives of humanity.

# Kaunas Startup Awards: special nomination category - **Startup Ecosystem Heroes**

- Lithuanian scientist **Professor Arminas Ragauskas** was awarded for his dedication to bringing R&D innovations to market;
- **Algirdas Stonys**, founder of TeleSoftas, was awarded for his contribution to supporting Lithuanian start-ups, the Ukrainian country and technology enthusiasts;
- **Gytautas Kulakauskas**, Project Manager at Kaunas IN Economic Development Agency, was awarded for fostering a friendly and supportive environment for start-ups.



# Kaunas Startup Awards: Evidence of success

- ~**15 startups** and the innovative solutions are identified and promoted.
- ~**15 best cases** of business and science collaboration practices.
- High reach of all society members: a single broadcast of the awards receives more than **30,000 views**.
- United cooperation (science, business, municipality, BSO and corporations): awards ceremony is supported by **key representatives** of Kaunas Startup ecosystem stakeholders.
- Attended by ~**150 representatives** of Kaunas startup ecosystem community members.





# Kaunas Startup Awards: spin-offs

In 2024, four spin-offs were nominated:

- **Ligence** - Lithuanian Health Science University
- **KELI Therapeutics** - Lithuanian Health Science University
- **NutriHack** - Lithuanian Health Science University
- **Exolitus** - Lithuanian Health Science University

In 2023, six spin-offs were nominated:

- **In 2Cumulatis** - Kaunas University of Technology
- **Zinotech** - Kaunas University of Technology
- **Fitodenta** - Lithuanian Health Science University
- **Natto-yo** - Lithuanian Health Science University
- **Kondigno** - Vytautas Magnus University
- **Rituami** - Lithuanian Health Science University

In 2022, three spin-offs were nominated:

- **Exolitus** - Lithuanian Health Science University
- **Amber Charge** - Vytautas Magnus University
- **Synhet** - Lithuanian Health Science University



# Kaunas Startup Awards 2023



**KAUNO**  
STARTUOLIŲ  
APDOVANOJIMAI 2023

**Kaunastic**  
Startups  
Meetup #10

## ŠVENTINIS SUSITIKIMAS

RENGINIO PARTNERIAI:

|                                                    |                                             |                                        |                             |                             |
|----------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------|-----------------------------|-----------------------------|
| <b>TECH-PARK</b><br>KAUNAS                         | <b>KAUNASTIC</b><br>STARTUPS                | <b>SAMSUNG</b><br>INNOVATION           | <b>GAUTINGIS</b><br>SILPNIS | <b>Innovation</b><br>Agency |
| <b>ktu</b><br>KLAIPĖDOS<br>TECHNINIS UNIVERSITETAS | <b>LIETUVOS</b><br>KOMUNIKACIJŲ<br>AGENCIJA | <b>LEI</b><br>LITVINSKY<br>ENGINEERING | <b>VITONIS</b><br>KLAIPĖDA  | <b>Delfi</b>                |

RENGINIO VIETA:  
GRUODŽIO 6 D., ROMUVOS KINO TEATRAS

# Kaunas Startup Awards: Media information

**Kaunas Startups webpage:** <https://kaunostartuoliai.lt/apie-mus>

## **Mass media:**

- Kaunas Startup Awards 2024 – presentations of nominees at the media portal Delfi.lt – <https://www.delfi.lt/a/120067228>
- Kaunas Startup Awards 2024 – broadcast on the media portal Delfi.lt – <https://www.delfi.lt/tv/transliacijos/kauno-startuoliu-apdovanojimai-2024-ekosistemos-galaktika-120071119>
- Kaunas Startup Awards 2023 – presentations of nominees at the media portal Delfi.lt – [https://www.delfi.lt/uzsakomasis-turinys/premium/apkeliave-pasaulinius-startuoliu-akceleratorius-grizo-i-kauna-ivertinkite-visuomenei-aktualiausias-kaunieciu-inovacijas-95218347?fbclid=IwAR2nIUHW-aqWgpKTP\\_WAo6-vraofUeT5QhJw4-PlbxxWegxjTOltFuzY\\_P0](https://www.delfi.lt/uzsakomasis-turinys/premium/apkeliave-pasaulinius-startuoliu-akceleratorius-grizo-i-kauna-ivertinkite-visuomenei-aktualiausias-kaunieciu-inovacijas-95218347?fbclid=IwAR2nIUHW-aqWgpKTP_WAo6-vraofUeT5QhJw4-PlbxxWegxjTOltFuzY_P0)
- Kaunas Startup Awards 2023 – broadcast on the media portal Delfi.lt - <https://www.delfi.lt/video/laidos/partnerio-turinys/kauno-startuoliu-apdovanojimai-2023-kaunastic-startups-meetup-10-95239015>
- Kaunas Startup of the Year Awards 2022 – presentations of nominees at the media portal Delfi.lt – <https://www.delfi.lt/uzsakomasis-turinys/aktualijos/isrinkite-2022-metu-kauno-startuoli-91803133>
- Kaunas Startup of the Year Awards 2022 – broadcast on the media portal Delfi.lt – <https://www.delfi.lt/video/laidos/partnerio-turinys/kauno-startuoliu-apdovanojimai-2022.d?id=91884613>
- Presentation of Kaunas Startup of the Year Awards 2022 winners at the media portal Delfi.lt – <https://www.delfi.lt/uzsakomasis-turinys/aktualijos/kauno-startuoliai-apdovanoti-uz-pasiekimus-pasaulineje-inovaciju-rinkoje-91942535>.



**Interreg  
Europe**



**Co-funded by  
the European Union**

**VIADUCT**



**[www.interregeurope.eu/VIADUCT](http://www.interregeurope.eu/VIADUCT)**

