



The World Business Angels Investment Forum

An affiliated partner of the G20 Global Partnership for Financial Inclusion (GPII)

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## ABOUT

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**WBAF**

An affiliated partner of the G20 Global Partnership for Financial Inclusion (GPII), the World Business Angels Investment Forum (WBAF) is committed to empowering world economic development by easing access to finance and creating innovative financial instruments for entrepreneurs, startups, scaleups, SMEs and investors.

# Contents

World Business Angels Investment Forum (WBAF).....	3
Diplomacy in Action for Entrepreneurs Initiative .....	4
International Committees.....	6
The Global Women Leaders Committee.....	6
The Global Startup Committee.....	6
The Global Science, Technology and Innovation (STI) Committee .....	7
The Ethical Governance, Standards of Excellence, and Quality Leadership Committee.....	7
WBAF activities reported by G20.....	7
QBAC Center: Angel Investors and BANs Certification and Accreditation Center.....	8
WBAF Angel Investment Fund.....	9
Global Fundraising Stage (GFRS).....	10
World Excellence Awards.....	10
Economic Development Commissions.....	10
WBAF Research Institute.....	11
WBAF Publication House.....	11
WBAF Business School.....	12
Corporate Governance and SME Support Centre.....	13
WBAF Startup Center .....	14
Economic Cooperation Agreements .....	14
WBAF Country Offices .....	14
World Congress of Angel Investors .....	15
Strategic Partners of the World Business Angels Investment Forum .....	16
Institutional Members .....	16
Investor Delegations .....	17
World Business Angel Investors Week: Angel Investors' Flagship .....	18
WBAF Worldwide Country Offices.....	19

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## World Business Angels Investment Forum (WBAF)

An affiliated partner of the G20 Global Partnership for Financial Inclusion (GPFI), the World Business Angels Investment Forum brings together key players of the equity market to discuss the benefits of and challenges to the angel investment community's achieving successful growth for their businesses and to discuss what more can be done to connect the early-stage market ecosystem. The four missions of WBAF are:

- Easing access to smart finance for entrepreneurs and angel investors
- Promoting gender equality
- Increasing financial inclusion
- Promoting digital inclusion

WBAF is the world's biggest organization of early-stage equity and investment markets, hosting 6 continental summits and/or 5 thematic forums every year during the World Congress of Angel Investors. The main organisation helps shape the global agenda of the early-stage equity and capital markets of the world.

WBAF acknowledges and emphasizes the importance of the many players in the startup economy—startups, scaleups, high-growth businesses, angel investors, crowdfunding platforms, incubation centres, accelerators, technology transfer offices, technoparks, innovation centres, corporate ventures, business angel networks, wealth management institutions and family offices. It advances its agenda at the G20 level through its affiliation with the G20 Global Partnership for Financial Inclusion (GPFI), chaired by Queen Maxima of the Netherlands. The WBAF also hosts World Business Angel Investors Week, which is celebrated every third week of October, under a global theme.

The World Business Angels Investment Forum is committed to collaborating globally to empower the economic development of the world by fostering innovative financial instruments for startups, scaleups, innovators, entrepreneurs and SMEs and by promoting gender equality and women's participation in all sectors of the world economy.

WBAF accomplishes its mission thanks to the participation of numerous parties and channels. These include 685 high commissioners, senior senators, senators and international partners from 127 countries; 7 country offices on 5 continents; the WBAF Business School and its more than 50 faculty members from 32 countries; the WBAF Startup Centre; WBAF Economic Development Commissions; the WBAF Research Institute; and international working committees.

The World Business Angels Investment Forum has an important new initiative—Diplomacy in Action for Entrepreneurs, a platform where policymakers, investors and entrepreneurs can share their ideas and interact with WBAF's Economic Development Commissions, who prepare reports to be presented to G20 leaders. Around 30 country presidents, prime ministers and other government dignitaries sit on the board of this initiative.

WBAF also has an angel investment fund, partnerships with global institutions, and economic cooperation agreements with governments.

The World Business Angels Investment Forum has developed a certification and accreditation framework for (a) individual angel investors and (b) business angel networks. This framework is crucial for the creation of sustainable early-stage equity opportunities and an investment market for local economies. The process is operated by the WBAF QBAC Center: the Angel Investors and BANs Certification and Accreditation Center.

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The World Congress of Angel Investors, held annually in February, hosts continental summits, thematic forums and numerous other events, including a Global Fundraising Stage and a World Excellence Awards ceremony. WBAF also boasts a number of publications, among which are the *WBS Business School Journal*, *World Class Startup Magazine*, and *Angel Investor Review Online*—all produced by the WBAF Publishing House, based in the U.K.

WBAF accomplishes its missions through various parties and channels:

- Diplomacy in Action for Entrepreneurs Initiative
- International Committees
- Business School
- Angel Investment Fund
- Startup Center
- Global Fundraising Stage
- World Excellence Awards
- Country Offices
- Institutional Members
- QBAC Center: Angel Investors and BANs Certification and Accreditation Center
- High Commissioners, Senior Senators, Senators and International Partners
- World Business Angel Investors Week
- Research Institute
- Publishing House
- Economic Development Commissions
- Corporate Governance and SME Support Centre
- World Congress of Angel Investors
- Strategic Partners
- Investor Delegations

## **Diplomacy in Action for Entrepreneurs Initiative**

Even before the COVID-19 pandemic, business transformation was a concern of big companies, but now it is imperative, and not just for large enterprises. Even the smallest companies and organisations must transform their business as a matter of urgency in order to cope with dynamics of the post-pandemic business environment.

Surveys reveal that most small companies and entrepreneurs in the startup economy are suffering financially. Their plight will become even more serious if they have not been able to complete their business transformation before the 'new normal' sets in.

The challenge is this: Business transformation is not a cheap process. How realistic is it to encourage entrepreneurs to invest in business transformation when they are struggling just to meet their short-term expenses?

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Given this situation, the World Business Angels Investment Forum invites policymakers to develop smart policies that will provide financial support to startups, scaleups, SMEs and all entrepreneurs to help them transform their business. WBAF believes that more public–private partnerships (PPP) should be mobilised for this purpose. And governmental recovery plans need to include financial support for entrepreneurs' business transformation efforts.

Governments must be alerted to the fact that unless small companies receive financial support for transforming their business, they will not be able to survive in post-pandemic times. This means their capacity to create more jobs and social wealth for economies will be lost.

The World Business Angels Investment Forum has launched a Diplomacy in Action for Entrepreneurs Initiative. This body's mission is to spotlight the importance of these business transformations and to harness the collective knowledge of the world's most influential women leaders, policymakers, entrepreneurs, and artists with a view to addressing this critical issue.

The Diplomacy in Action for Entrepreneurs Initiative serves as a platform for policymakers, investors and entrepreneurs to share ideas and interact with WBAF's Economic Development Commissions, who prepare reports that offer creative ways to boost economies through the G20's Global Partnership for Financial Inclusion (GPMI), which is chaired by Queen Maxima of the Netherlands.

The Initiative will campaign for solutions to such critical issues and other worldwide concerns at the United Nations, the European Union and in G20 countries and regional and local economies. The board members of the Diplomacy in Action for Entrepreneurs Initiative are listed here:

- Baybars Altuntas, Executive Chairman, World Business Angels Investment Forum
- Dr. Paul Doany, Rector, WBAF Business School
- H.E. Kolinda Grabar-Kitarović, 4th President of Croatia
- H.E. Prof. dr. sc. Ivo Josipović, 3rd President of Croatia
- H.E. Lansana Kouyaté, Former Prime Minister of Guinea, Former Vice President of the United Nations Economic and Social Council
- H.E. Prof. Yongyuth Yuthavong, Former Deputy Prime Minister, Thailand
- H.E. Antonio Santos, Former Deputy Prime Minister and Education Minister, Portugal
- H.E. Prof. Hykmete Bajrami, Minister of Finance, Kosovo
- H.E. Yvonne Adélaïde Mougany, Minister of SME Development, Congo
- H.E. Eduard Shalsi, Minister of State for the Protection of Entrepreneurship, Albania
- H.E. Dr. Ibrahim Mohammad Awal, Tourism Minister, Ghana
- H.E. Manuel A. González-Sanz, Former Foreign Affairs Minister, Costa Rica
- H.E. Noomane Fehri, Former Digital Economy Minister, Tunisia
- H.E. Prof. Inderjit Singh, Former Parliament Member, Singapore
- H.E. Martha Delgado, Undersecretary for Multilateral Affairs and Human Rights at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Mexico

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## International Committees

WBAF holds that, with the participation of individuals and institutions from multiple sectors and from all parts of society, real progress can be achieved. WBAF Committees comprise the world leaders of the World Business Angels Investment Forum – High Commissioners, Senior Senators, Senators and International Partners who represent diverse regions and industries – who are committed to the idea that interaction between multiple stakeholders can be a positive force in creating change.

Committee members work in close cooperation with each other to help shape regional and global agendas in the global and regional investment markets. Through this cooperation, they all contribute to the global knowledge base and benefit from it as they develop the focus of Forum initiatives.

There are 4 committees you can join if you are a High Commissioner, Senior Senator, Senator or International Partner:

- Global Women Leaders Committee
- Global Startup Committee
- Global Science, Technology and Innovation (STI) Committee
- Ethical Governance, Standards of Excellence and Quality Leadership Committee

By contributing to better policymaking, sharing best practices, and engaging stakeholders beyond commercial objectives, the committees of the World Business Angels Investment Forum do have a real impact on issues of worldwide concern.

### [WBAF International Committees](#)

#### The Global Women Leaders Committee

*Mission statement:* The Global Women Leaders Committee of the World Business Angels Investment Forum is committed to leveraging unique access to the world's most influential women leaders, policymakers, entrepreneurs, and artists—uniting these global forces to harness their collective knowledge, address today's critical issues, and generate innovative solutions to empower the world economy.

President of the Committee:

Kolinda Grabar-Kitarović, President of the Republic of Croatia (2015-2020)

#### The Global Startup Committee

*Mission statement:* The Global Startup Committee of the World Business Angels Investment Forum is committed to helping the next generation of great companies move forward and to showcase the world's top startups and scaleups (typically, funded companies in the process of raising €100K–€1M) at the Global Fundraising Stage (GFRS), establishing a superior deal flow pipeline that connects investors with superior startups, and through training and mentorship, to help the next generation of companies that are seeking to raise funding in order to grow and scale their businesses, bridging qualified investors and entrepreneurs and creating a global community that attracts the best deal flow, the most knowledgeable experts and fosters continuous and evolving interactions amongst community members. The Global

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Fundraising Stage is an international co-investment platform for angel investors, startups, scaleups and high-growth businesses.

President of the Committee:

Prof. Inderjit Singh, Parliament Member of Singapore (1996-2015)

### **The Global Science, Technology and Innovation (STI) Committee**

*Mission statement:* The Global Science, Technology and Innovation (STI) Committee of the World Business Angels Investment Forum is committed to connecting innovators with smart finance, creating a better environment for innovation, helping inventors commercialize their inventions, fostering the kind of creative thinking that leads to innovation by open learning and skill development, and accelerating technology transfer around the world.

President of the Committee:

Syed Amin Ul Haque, Federal Minister of Information Technology and Telecommunication, Pakistan

### **The Ethical Governance, Standards of Excellence, and Quality Leadership Committee**

*Mission Statement:* The Ethical Governance, Standards of Excellence, and Quality Leadership Committee of the World Business Angels Investment Forum aims to strategically position WBAF's wide spectrum of tasks to (a) promote WBAF's corporate culture ideologies within a robust Circle of Trust that encompasses good individual and communal conduct, (b) contribute to and enhance the focal principles of a superior Code of Conduct, Core Values, and Behaviour Drivers, (c) support the active engagement of all stakeholders by facilitating access to necessary resources so as to enable proper multi-dimensional adherence and (d) encourage the universal entrepreneurship ecosystem to endorse these essential standards and adopt a practical path for their successful global implementation. The mission of the Committee will be achieved by focusing on capabilities and harmonizing and improving initiatives by:

- Offering access to educational courses and practical training programmes.
- Delivering mentorship and providing advanced advisory services.
- Formulating applied toolkits and producing procedural manuals.
- Publishing research documents, white papers and policy positions.
- Partnering with leading like-minded sustainable development organizations.
- Monitoring progress, proposing improvements.

### **WBAF activities reported by G20**

On 24 June 2020, members of the Global Partnership for Financial Inclusion (GPMI) convened virtually for the second plenary meeting under the Saudi G20 Presidency. The agenda included the COVID-19 pandemic and the global economic response. Members discussed various activities taken by their countries/organizations to combat the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on the economy and its effect on people's livelihood. At the conclusion of the second plenary meeting, the members issued a statement on the COVID-19 response, reaffirming G20's commitment under the G20 Action Plan in response to the COVID-19 pandemic.

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Through the issued statement, GPFI members affirmed their commitment to promoting financial inclusion by sharing their country's experiences and measures to mitigate the impacts brought by COVID-19. In accordance with the G20 GPFI statement on the COVID- 19 response, and based on the commitment made by members to knowledge-sharing, this document compiles the collective actions of different countries and organizations around the world.

The report includes the measures and experiences of 11 countries; Argentina, Brazil, Canada, China, India, Japan, Saudi Arabia, Spain, Turkey, the United Arab Emirates and the United States.

The report includes the measures and experiences of 9 international organisations; Access to Insurance Initiative (A2ii), Alliance for Financial Inclusion (AFI), Better Than Cash Alliance (BTCA), Consultative Group to Assist the Poor (CGAP), International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD), Islamic Development Bank (IsDB), Organization For Economic Co-Operation And Development (OECD), World Bank Group (WBG) and World Business Angels Investment Forum (WBAF).

[You can review the report here](#)

## **QBAC Center: Angel Investors and BANs Certification and Accreditation Center**

The World Business Angels Investment Forum has developed a certification and accreditation framework for (a) individual angel investors and (b) business angel networks. This framework is crucial for the creation of sustainable early-stage equity opportunities and an investment market for local economies.

*The individual angel investors framework has 7 steps:*

- Step 1:  
Performing a preliminary test to assess the applicant's level of knowledge of basic and advanced principles of angel investment.
- Step 2:  
Checking the applicant's profile and biography to understand the level of success of the applicant's exits, if there have been any.
- Step 3:  
Categorizing the applicant as (a) a potential angel investor, (b) an angel investor, or (c) a qualified angel investor.
- Step 4:  
Determining the correct course level for upgrading the applicant's knowledge and skills for capacity-building.  
  
Depending on their level, applicants must complete one or more of the following courses: (a) QBAC Basic – Investment Readiness, (b) QBAC Intermediate – Startup Assessment, (c) QBAC+ Advanced – Qualified Angel Investor Course, and (d) QBAC Master – Startup Ventures Company Valuation.



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- Step 5:  
Administering the QBAC+ Proficiency Test.
  - Step 6:  
Certifying the applicant as Qualified Angel Investor.
  - Step 7:  
Accrediting the Qualified Angel Investor as a Listed Angel Investor.

This framework provides an opportunity for angel investors to

- benefit from tax incentives in their countries more easily.
- benefit from co-investment opportunities more easily.
- get better deal flow from qualified entrepreneurs.
- attract global investors to co-invest in local entrepreneurs and startups.

*The Business Angel Networks (BAN) accreditation framework has 4 steps:*

- Step 1:  
Performing a preliminary check to assess the capacity level of the BAN.
- Step 2:  
Categorising the BAN as (a) a BAN or (b) and Accredited BAN.
- Step 3:  
Determining the most suitable courses for BANs that want to become an Accredited BAN.  
  
The available courses are (a) BAN Basic: Establishing and Running a Business Angel Network, (b) BAN Intermediate: Certified BAN Management, and (c) BAN Advanced: Syndication.
- Step 4:  
Accrediting the BAN, on condition that the staff holds certificates from least two of the above courses.

This framework gives an opportunity to business angel networks to help their members

- benefit from tax incentives in their countries more easily.
- benefit from co-investment opportunities more easily.
- get better deal flow from qualified entrepreneurs.
- attract global investors to co-invest in local entrepreneurs and startups.
- attract more qualified angel investors for membership.

## **WBAF Angel Investment Fund**

The WBAF Angel Investment Fund is designed to capitalise on the worldwide growth in entrepreneurial activity and venture financing for startups and scaleups and to benefit from WBAF's extensive network of

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global investors, including angel investors, private equity funds, co-investment platforms, wealth management institutions, family offices, VCs and acceleration centres.

- The ultimate goal is to create a high-quality portfolio with some of the world's most promising startups and scaleups and, at the same time, create opportunities for co-investment and follow-on investments.
- Another goal is to connect the best startups with the best angel investors, making it possible for them to benefit from the know-how, mentorship and networks of qualified investors.

## **Global Fundraising Stage (GFRS)**

The Global Fundraising Stage is an international co-investment platform for investors, startups, scaleups and high-growth businesses which are aiming to globalise by raising funds from qualified investors. The GFRS aims to create a high-quality portfolio for angel investors, with some of the world's most promising startups, scaleups and, at the same time, create opportunities for co-investment and follow-on investments. The GFRS also connects top startups with the best angel investors, making it possible for the startups to benefit not only from the investment but also from the know-how, mentorship and the networks of qualified investors.

The mission is to showcase the world's top startups and scaleups, which, typically, are funded companies in the process of raising €50K – €3M, with the aim of globalising.

## **World Excellence Awards**

The World Excellence Awards, hosted by the World Business Angels Investment Forum, salute individuals and organisations who stand out in imagining, discussing, and shaping the future of an entrepreneurial world. Given the diverse challenges the world is facing in the twenty-first century, it is important to recognize that entrepreneurship can have a major impact on our future, offering new ways to increase economic opportunities and to foster social justice.

Recognizing the global movers and shakers, the World Business Angels Investment Forum aims to contribute to that impact by driving positive changes that will facilitate entrepreneurship. Fostering entrepreneurship that affects both economic and social arenas is a hallmark of the Forum.

Through the World Excellence Awards, the World Business Angels Investment Forum celebrates high growth and success in the angel and early-stage investment market – recognising the fastest growing brands and acknowledging the founders, angel investors, crowd-funders and early-stage venture capital investors behind them. Open to both companies and investors, these awards seek to recognise the year's most disruptive new market entrants and provide a definitive list of the most exciting individuals and organisations to watch in the early-stage equity and capital markets space.

[www.excellence.world](http://www.excellence.world)

## **Economic Development Commissions**

As an affiliated partner of the G20 Global Partnership for Financial Inclusion (GPII), the World Business Angels Investment Forum (WBAF) believes that bringing together various disciplines can help us design innovative solutions to tackle the world's biggest issues such as access to finance, gender equality, ethical

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governance, commercialization of scientific research, business transformation and financial inclusion. This collaborative approach will have a multiplier effect in terms of impact.

WBAF has therefore developed a brand new multidisciplinary cluster framework to empower world economies and foster the business transformation of companies through global collaboration and open innovation as a response to COVID-19. An Economic Development Commission is a convergence of entrepreneurs, investors, policymakers, academics, thinkers, and active citizens from the same industry or a sector with a similar background. An Economic Development Commission are proposed by a WBAF High Commissioner, Senior Senator, Senator or International Partner.

Horizontal Line: Global Startup Committee / Global Women Leaders Committee / Global Science, Technology and Innovation Committee / Ethical Governance, Standards of Excellence, and Quality Leadership Committee / Angel Investment Fund / Business School / Startup Center / Country Offices / QBAC Center: Angel Investors and BANs Certification and Accreditation Center / Global Fundraising Stage / World Excellence Awards

Vertical Line: ICT / Travel & Tourism / Smart Cities / Trade / Agriculture / Manufacturing / Services / Construction & Real Estate / Arts / Energy & Utilities / Healthcare / Education / Public Sector / Others

## **WBAF Research Institute**

Reliable data is an essential dynamic for leaders of public and private organisations to steer their organisations in the right direction. Yet lack of reliable data that would serve as a compass for stakeholders of local and regional ecosystems is one of the most challenging issues of early-stage equity markets. Reliable data and benchmarks are key for startup economies that want to position their country, companies, organisations and other institutions as competitive.

Attracting more investors for your startup economy, positioning your country as a regional innovation hub, and easing access to finance for entrepreneurs in your country are all possible if your roadmap is backed by reliable data and is benchmarked accordingly.

The WBAF Research Institute aims to support decision makers of early-stage equity and capital markets by providing reliable data through its extensive global network. The ultimate goal is to help governments, policymakers and companies chart a roadmap to reach their goals, take strategic decisions, and create a success story for their startup economies by providing current and reliable market data through data and analytics.

## **WBAF Publication House**

The World Business Angels Investment Forum aims to contribute to development of early-stage equity and investment markets through its U.K.-based publication house, which provides individuals and companies with online and offline publications.

### *Angel Investor Review*

online version – [www.angel-investor.review](http://www.angel-investor.review) - more than 200.000 subscribers

print version – <https://wbaforum.org/upload/1.jpg>

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## Books

- Qualified Angels Investors Course Book
- Elementary Level: Entrepreneurship Course Book
- Pre-Intermediate Level: Angel Investment – Background Course Book
- Intermediate Level: Angel Investment – Practice Course Book
- Upper-Intermediate Level: Angel Investor Groups Course Book
- Advanced Level: Governments and Policymakers Course Book
- Module 1: Entrepreneurship Across the World Course Book
- Module 2: Non-Financial Route Map of an Entrepreneur Course Book
- Module 3: Financial Route Map of an Entrepreneur Course Book
- Module 4: Attitudes to Entrepreneurial Investment Course Book
- Module 5: Angel Investors Course Book
- Module 6: Becoming an Angel Investor Course Book
- Module 7: Sources of Deal Flow and Identifying Opportunities Course Book
- Module 8: Identifying and Analysing Deals Course Book
- Module 9: Company Valuation Course Book
- Module 10: Selecting a Portfolio of Investments Course Book
- Module 11: Due Diligence Course Book
- Module 12: Setting the Deal Terms Course Book
- Module 13: Negotiating the Deal Terms Course Book
- Module 14: Governance and Deal Monitoring Course Book
- Module 15: New Funding Rounds Course Book
- Module 16: Exits Course Book
- Module 17: Legal Agreements Course Book
- Module 18: Setting Up an Angel Investment Fund Course Book
- Module 19: Setting up an Angel Investment Group Course Book
- Module 20: The Angel Investment Ecosystem Course Book
- Module 21: The Angel Investment Market Around the World Course Book
- Module 22: Tax Environment for Angel Investment Course Book

## WBAF Business School

The WBAF Business School was established by the World Business Angels Investment Forum as a response to an increasing need for qualified investors, qualified entrepreneurs, in addition to a pressing need for more 'entrepreneurial' companies, in the ever-changing market environment of the twenty-first century.

Investors who have been trained in the best practices of early-stage investments are in a better position to ensure returns on their investment. In that regard, the WBAF Business School has developed a broad array of offerings that use a range of inputs (case studies, panel discussions, and presentations, to name just a few)—all of which encourage active participation and interaction on the part of those attending.

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In addition to addressing needs of individual investors and entrepreneurs, the WBAF Business School is also expanding its executive development programmes, with the express aim of increasing corporate entrepreneurship at all levels, from early-stage entities to incumbent companies. Accordingly, customised business transformation workshops and courses are offered, aiming to assist management teams in developing and executing the most appropriate business transformation plans for their particular businesses.

The WBAF Business School is not only for business angels. All stakeholders are welcome—entrepreneurs and SMEs, banks, financial institutions, stock exchanges, incubation and acceleration centres, and large private and public corporate entities. The offerings include the following:

- Certification Programmes
- Angel Investor Courses
- Startup Courses
- Business Transformation Courses
- Executive Development Courses
- English for Fundraising Courses

[www.wbs.wbaforum.org](http://www.wbs.wbaforum.org)

## **Corporate Governance and SME Support Centre**

Corporate governance essentially involves balancing the interests of a company's many stakeholders; these include shareholders, senior management executives, customers, suppliers, financiers, the government, and the community. Corporate governance also provides a framework for a company to attaining its objectives. As such, it encompasses practically every sphere of management, from action plans and internal controls to performance measurement and corporate disclosure.

Corporate governance policies play an important role in achieving broad economic objectives with respect to investor confidence, capital formation and allocation. Governance affects a corporation's ability to access capital; good governance gives fund providers the confidence to contribute to value creation on fair and equitable terms.

The Corporate Governance and SME Support Centre (CGSC) contributes to the WBAF Business School's goal of providing more than academic and conceptual training. It offers tangible business tools and sustainability services that will help SMEs overcome operational challenges.

Additionally, graduates of some WBAF Business School certificate programmes are eligible to enter into a professional agreement with the World Business Angels Investment Forum whereby the latter agrees to introduce the graduate to international companies and ventures in line with their specific area of certification (for example, as a certified startup assessor, a certified non-executive board member, or a qualified business mentor).

- The CGSC provides tailor-made corporate governance programmes in accordance with the specialization of each topic area covered in the School's various programmes.
- The CGSC serves as a bridge between WBAF Business School graduates and relevant industries around the world.

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## WBAF Startup Center

The WBAF Startup Center was established to support the economic development of the world by enhancing the potential of individuals and providing them with all the strategic tools they need to turn their ideas into a startup venture. The Center offers a five-stage disciplinary framework for entrepreneurs from idea to startup to scaleup to the Global Fundraising Stage and on to smart finance and investment. It combines the content of WBAF Business School programmes with mentorship, coaching, advisory and consultant support to the entrepreneurs who are incubated at the Center. Entrepreneurs from four different programmes are eligible for the Center (selection is by interview and WEELT score):

- Pre-Incubation Programme
- Incubation Programme
- Acceleration Programme
- Business Center & Co-Working Space Programme

The ultimate goal of the Pre-Incubation, Incubation and Acceleration programmes is to give entrepreneurs an opportunity to pitch on the Global Fundraising Stage, hosted by the World Business Angels Investment Forum during the World Congress of Angel Investors.

[www.startup.wbaforum.org](http://www.startup.wbaforum.org)

## Economic Cooperation Agreements

WBAF believes that global collaboration offers a great opportunity to governments to discover the real power of startups and businesses to empower their economies through innovation, angel investment and entrepreneurship. With this in mind, the World Business Angels Investment Forum signs comprehensive economic collaboration agreements with governments to create more opportunities in their respective countries for all manner of startups, scaleups, SMEs and high-growth businesses. WBAF has signed economic cooperation agreements with the governments of Ghana, Kosovo, Mali, and Mexico.

## WBAF Country Offices

The World Business Angels Investment Forum interacts with leaders in all areas of society, first and foremost in business and political spheres, to help assess needs and establish goals, bearing in mind that the public interest is of paramount importance. WBAF engages a wide range of institutions – public and private, local and international, commercial and academic – to help shape the global agenda of early-stage equity and capital markets.

One way WBAF does this is through its country offices. A country office serves as a bridge between the national and international ecosystem. Launching a country office involves embracing activities that are designed to serve the national community of startups, angel investors, innovators, SMEs and entrepreneurs. By combining contributions from the many dynamic WBAF country offices around the world, all of us benefit from shared learning, better networks and increased exposure. WBAF currently has 7 country offices:

- Bahrain
- Croatia

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- Ghana
  - Nigeria
  - Tanzania
  - Thailand
  - USA

## World Congress of Angel Investors

An affiliated partner of the G20 Global Partnership for Financial Inclusion (GPFI), the World Business Angels Investment Forum (WBAF) holds its annual flagship event, the World Congress of Angel Investors, every third Monday and Tuesday of February. This is the biggest global convergence of players of the early- and post-early stage equity and capital markets. The primary aim is to shape the coming year's agenda for the world equity market. WBAF, through its continental summits and thematic forums at the Congress, develops global dialogues between entrepreneurs, investors, policymakers and thought leaders.

The World Congress of Angel Investors hosts simultaneous continental summits:

- Europe Summit
- Latin America & the Caribbean Summit
- Asia Summit
- North America Summit
- MENA Summit
- Africa Summit

The World Congress of Angel Investors hosts simultaneous thematic forums:

- Angel Investors Summit
- CEO Investors Summit
- Fintech Summit
- Science, Technology & Innovation Summit
- Global Women Leaders Summit
- FDI Summit
- Global Exchange & Networking Forum

Re-live the World Congress of Angel Investors:

- WBAF 2021 – [www.wbaf2021.online](http://www.wbaf2021.online)
- WBAF 2020 – [www.wbaf2020.istanbul](http://www.wbaf2020.istanbul)
- WBAF 2019 – [www.wbaf2019.istanbul](http://www.wbaf2019.istanbul)
- WBAF 2018 – [www.wbaf2018.istanbul](http://www.wbaf2018.istanbul)
- WBAF 2017 – [www.wbaf2017.istanbul](http://www.wbaf2017.istanbul)

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## Strategic Partners of the World Business Angels Investment Forum

Strategic Partners are some of the world's top industry leaders representing diverse regions and industries; they are committed to the idea that interaction between multiple stakeholders can be a positive force in creating change. They work in close cooperation with the Forum to help shape regional and global agendas in the global and regional investment markets. Through this cooperation, Strategic Partners contribute to the global knowledge base and benefit from it as they determine the agenda of Forum meetings and develop the focus of Forum initiatives. WBAF has signed strategic collaborative agreements with global and regional institutions to empower the economic development of the world.

- International Finance Corporation of the World Bank Group (IFC)
- London Stock Exchange Group (LSEG)
- World Association of International Investment Promotion Agencies (WAIPA)
- International Association of Science Parks and Areas of Innovation (IASP)
- The Middle East Business Angels Network (MBAN)
- The African Trade Association for Business Angels (ABAN)
- The World Free & Special Economic Zones Federation (FEMOZA)
- The Association of Chambers of Commerce and Industry of the Mediterranean (ASCAME)
- International Chamber of Commerce (ICC)
- Junior Chamber International (JCI)

## Institutional Members

As an affiliated partner of the G20 Global Partnership for Financial Inclusion, the World Business Angels Investment Forum interacts with leaders in all areas of society – first and foremost in business and political spheres – to help assess needs and establish goals, bearing in mind that the public interest is of paramount importance. WBAF engages with a wide range of institutions – public and private, local and international, commercial and academic – to help shape the global agenda. WBAF holds that, with the participation of individuals and institutions from multiple sectors and from all parts of society, real progress can be achieved.

WBAF institutional members contribute to this effort. This community comprises well-established influential businesses that advance the development of their industry and the growth of their regional economies. Including top global innovators and disruptors that range from niche market leaders to regional champions, institutional members collaborate to address key issues, identify emerging trends and further the Forum's mission of easing access to finance globally.

Institutional members, at the core of all Forum activities, cooperate to find sustainable solutions to global issues. They are typically top-rated high-profile global institutions that play a leading role in their industry and their particular region.

### *Cooperation with Institutional Members*

Institutional members are committed to the idea that interaction between multiple stakeholders can be a positive force in creating change. They work in close cooperation with the Forum to help shape regional and global agendas in the global and regional investment markets. Through this cooperation, institutional



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members contribute to the global knowledge base and benefit from it as they determine the agenda of Forum meetings and develop the focus of Forum initiatives. By contributing to better policymaking, sharing best practices, and engaging stakeholders beyond commercial objectives, institutional members of the World Business Angels Investment Forum can and do have a real impact on issues of worldwide concern.

The World Business Angels Investment Forum institutional membership currently includes some of the world's top companies, corporate ventures, stock exchanges, chambers of commerce and industry, technoparks, technology transfer offices, SME agencies, innovation centres, banks, regional development agencies, incubation centres, acceleration centres, crowd-funding platforms, VCs, and business angel networks, each playing a key role in shaping the future of their particular industry as well as the future of their respective investment markets. Their involvement strengthens the Forum's various events and special projects.

WBAF believes that by working together across borders, with a common vision, and with these smart dynamics in mind, we are well placed to bring about positive change in the global economy.

*Typical Institutional Members:*

Chambers of Commerce and Industry / Stock Exchanges / Banks / Investment Promotion Agencies / Municipalities / Consulting Companies / Law Firms / NGOs / Governmental Bodies / Corporates / Universities/ University Initiatives / University Centres / Technoparks / Incubation Centres / Accelerators / Business Angel Networks / Private Equity Funds / Family Offices / VCs / Corporate Ventures / Crowdfunding Platforms / Wealth Management Institutions / Others

## **Investor Delegations**

As an affiliated partner of the G20 Global Partnership for Financial Inclusion (GPII), the World Business Angels Investment Forum organises investor delegations to emerging markets around the world to create a global communication that will lead to an increase in cross-border investments. The organisations represented by these delegates might have the managerial expertise and resources to act in areas where governments are unable or unwilling to do so. These leaders have a sense of being called upon to seek the common good, to make a difference, and to make the world a better place for their having been here. Investor delegations hope to achieve some or all of the following aims:

- Get an overview of the local startup and innovation ecosystem of the countries visited.
- Encourage bilateral cooperation to develop entrepreneurship.
- Listen to the pitches of entrepreneurs with a view toward investing in businesses that have high growth potential.
- Organise round tables / discussion sessions / conferences with local entrepreneurs, angel investors, policymakers and visit innovation facilitators such as incubation centres, acceleration centres, chambers of commerce and industry, free zones, and stock exchanges.
- Identify and engage with local individuals who are contributing to the development of the local and regional ecosystems.
- Create co-investment funds for startups.

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- Explore cross-border early-stage market investment opportunities.
  - Suggest ways regional angel investors can benefit from WBAF activities.
  - Create an awareness of the advantages of becoming an angel investor.

### **World Business Angel Investors Week: *Angel Investors' Flagship***

WBAF envisions World Business Angel Investors Week (WBAW) as a platform where all stakeholders pause to assess their fast-paced journey, to analyse why and how we should leverage angel investment as a must-have financial tool for boosting economies, and to reiterate how entrepreneurial ecosystems can create more jobs, more wealth and more social justice in co-operation with key players in early-stage equity markets. It is celebrated every third week of October, under a global theme.

During World Business Angel Investors Week, partners host events and exhibitions related to that year's theme. These event partners are individuals and organizations from various sectors who volunteer to share their insights on angel investment, the startup economy, financial inclusion, gender equality, entrepreneurship, and innovation to audiences and collaborators in various sectors. To recognise and highlight the global entrepreneurship ecosystem's multi-lingual and multi-cultural business character, the events and activities are conducted in local languages.

World Business Angel Investors Week creates a unique opportunity to showcase fresh and innovative ideas that inspire current and future leaders of the world to take risks on new ideas, collaborate across sectors, and transform world economies through the scaling of entrepreneurship, angel investment, financial inclusion and innovation.

The country chairs for World Business Angel Investors Week are announced at the WBAF Grand Assembly, held every February.

This week-long event is an open platform for connecting, learning, sharing, exhibiting inventions and innovations, and exchanging know-how that promotes entrepreneurship and angel investment ecosystems.

[www.angelsweek.org](http://www.angelsweek.org)

## WBAF Worldwide Country Offices

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Country Chairman:

Governor of Zagorje County

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### **About the World Business Angels Investment Forum (WBAF)**

An affiliated partner of the G20 Global Partnership for Financial Inclusion (GPFI), the World Business Angels Investment Forum (WBAF) is an international organisation aiming to ease access to finance for businesses from start-up to scale-up, with the ultimate goal of generating more jobs and more social justice worldwide. It is committed to collaborating globally to empower world economic development by creating innovative financial instruments for innovators, start-ups, and SMEs. The Forum interacts with leaders in all areas of society, first and foremost in business and political spheres, to help assess needs and establish goals, bearing in mind that the public interest is of paramount importance. WBAF engages a wide range of institutions, both public and private, local and international, commercial and academic to help shape the global agenda.

[www.wbaforum.org](http://www.wbaforum.org)

### **About GPFI**

The Global Partnership for Financial Inclusion (GPFI) is an inclusive platform for all G20 countries, interested non-G20 countries, and relevant stakeholders to carry forward work on financial inclusion, including implementation of the G20 Financial Inclusion Action Plan endorsed at the G20 Summit in Seoul. Queen Maxima of the Netherlands is the Honorary Patron of the GPFI.

[www.gpfi.org](http://www.gpfi.org)