



# Albanian Innovation Ecosystem Techspace – as a good practice

# National Agency of Information Society

E-SERVICES



CREATION &  
MANAGEMENT OF ICT  
SYSTEMS



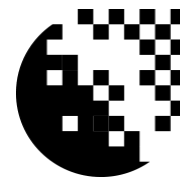
ELECTRONIC SEAL &  
SIGNATURE



DATACENTER



ORGANIZATION AND  
MANAGEMENT OF IT STRUCTURES  
IN THE PUBLIC ADMINISTRATION



DESIGN OF  
THE DIGITAL AGENDA



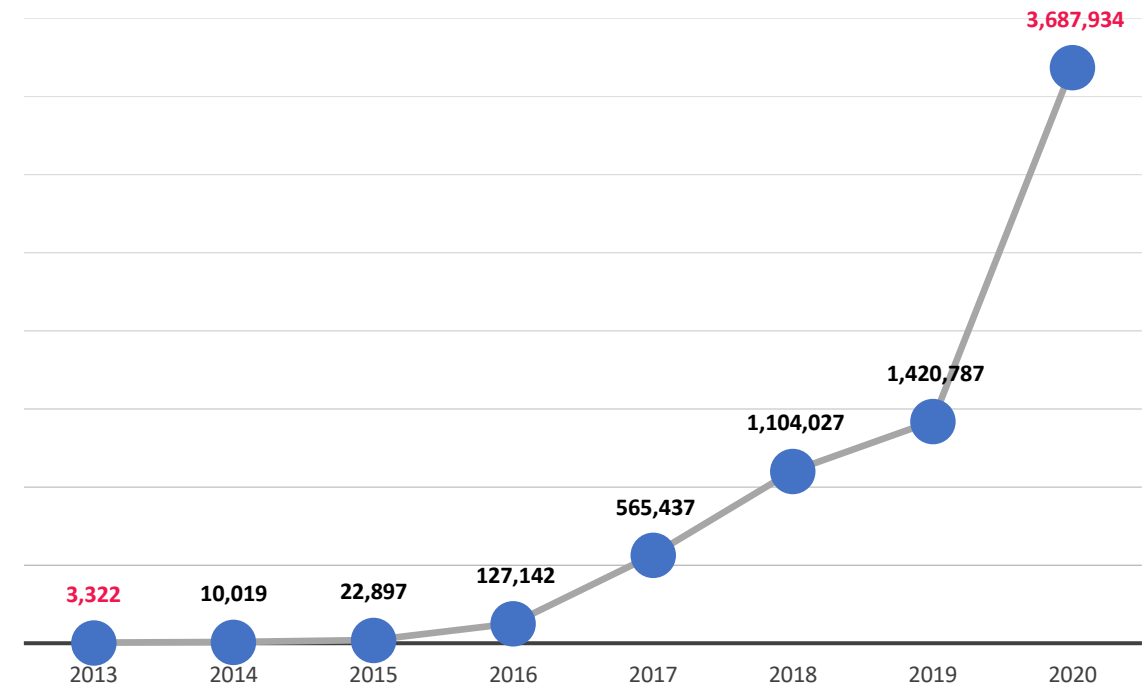
INNOVATION

# Digital transformation



- Around **2 million** users registered (citizens and businesses)
- **1,207** online services offered in the governmental portal
- From January 2021, **95%** of all public services are offered online
- **63%** of the data in the application forms are filled in automatically as a result of interoperability between **55** electronic registers
- Elimination of accompanying documentation - not required from the citizen but provided by the administration

Online Applications 2013-2020



# Accelerating innovation

## ICT-Centric Innovation Ecosystem



### National innovation ecosystem

Government is supporting innovation through different programs;

Creation of the innovation hub as a possibility to offer innovation enthusiasts on premises opportunities for developing their ideas;

Collaboration agreements have been signed with ICT universities and ICT vocational high-schools.

### Entrepreneurial ecosystem

Collaboration with local or international companies with the aim to offer professional consulting and step-by-step follow-up and support of startup ideas by experts specialized in various fields (ICT, marketing, legal, economic, finance, etc.)

### Technology ecosystem

Creating an easy accessible environment for Startups and SME with the aim to leverage technological innovation:

- With a single stop online, the business completes virtually the entire cycle it needs in relation to the government, from opening a new business, applications for permits and licenses, paying taxes, submitting balance sheets, tax payments, etc.
- Electronic signature for business enables B2G and B2B to exchange electronically signed documents of full

# #TECHSPACE

learn/dare/create!

*Functional since February 2019*  
*Budget funded*  
*Great Location*  
*Free access*  
*Modern and creative environment*  
*Community in growth*  
*Technology oriented*  
*Dedicated to ICT start-ups and ICT students*





“TechSpace” is the **largest technology lab in Albania, funded by the Albanian government in February 2019**, in support of start-ups and students to reinforce and encourage them in delivering projects and ideas in the field of ICT.



A modern and fully-equipped environment



Open daily  
9 am – 9 pm



Ensuring the development of ideas, counseling, talent promotion, building entrepreneurial capacities

# TechSpace Activity

- Until today it has **more than 1200 registered young people and more than 90 startup-business ideas.**
- An average of 80 of them visited TechSpace almost daily (before the COVID-19 pandemic) spending 3-4 hours creating, working or having business meetings with potential partners;
- Several start-ups are represented with an office of their own, using TechSpace premises;
- TechSpace enables the co-design of innovative products, their testing, the sharing of ideas and the creation of prototypes;
- Through incubation programs is provided a professional consulting and step-by-step follow-up and support of startup ideas by experts specialized in various fields (ICT, marketing, legal, economic, finance, etc.);
- Organizing two Job fairs: More than 20 ICT students were hired in the 10 different private companies, part of the job fair;
- TechSpace has been supporting the Software Development Academy (SDA) by Protik, a Coding Academy, by offering it's premises and being a serious partner.

# Incubation Program: Startup Program-Roadmap to Silicon Valley

TechSpace launched in early January 2020 the “*Startup Program 2020 – Roadmap to Silicon Valley*” in collaboration with Junior Achievement of Albania.

- 25 selected start-ups were trained through an intensive program of workshops related to start-up development by successful international experts;
- The program provided:
  - Supervision and mentoring
  - Training
  - Specific consultancy for the needs of start-ups.
- 12 finalist start-ups pitched in front of investors during the Demo Day;
- The final phase of the program, the visit to Silicon Valley has been postponed due to the pandemic.



# Information sessions from Microsoft

- Numerous information sessions on digital transformation and discussions with young people have been conducted on TechSpace by various Microsoft experts.
- Focus on the introduction of new technologies. In these sessions were treated formulas for professional success, presentations of new ICT fields, AI, quantum computing, blockchain, etc.
- Reinforced the idea that even in small countries like Albania, talented young people who have a passion for technology, can become competitive with other more developed countries.



Albanian Cyber Academy



Informative session on Quantum Computing



Informative session on Blockchain