



PRESS-RELEASE
5TH OF JULY 2017

RuhrSummit 2017 expects 1.000 participants from more than 25 nations

Biggest Startup-Conference in the Ruhr Valley goes into its second round

The Ruhr Valley establishes itself as a German startup-hotspot alongside Berlin, Hamburg or Munich. The successful debut of the RuhrSummit last year in Essen as a spotlight-event of the regional founding scene showed this. The new edition of the biggest startup-conference in the Ruhr Valley on the 19th and 20th of October 2017 in the Dortmunder U underlines the regions great potential as center of innovation in the heart of Europe. With an expanded period of two days and an even more international program, more than 1.000 participants from at least 25 nations and top-class speakers, the RuhrSummit 2017 sets new standards.

“In the metropolis Ruhr, we see an exciting development. With the RuhrSummit in 2017 we want to add our contribution by connecting the local economy by use of match-making with young, innovative startups”, said organizer Oliver Weimann of the 360 Online Performance Group.

“Initiativkreis Ruhr” supports the RuhrSummit and the Startup-Scene

“The enormous resonance of the first RuhrSummit 2016 has exceeded our expectations by far”, said Dirk Opalka, managing Director of the Initiativkreis Ruhr GmbH. „To us, this confirms: In the Ruhr Valley beats a young, powerful founding heart. The Ruhr-Industry wants to give the regional scene another thrust and pave the way for young, innovative startups. That’s why we support the RuhrSummit this year as well.” The Initiativkreis Ruhr alongside the the 360 Online Performance Group and the Online-Portal RuhrGründer are initiators of the RuhrSummit.

Regional and International Startups Pitch in front of Top-Class Jury

Highlight of the Startup-Conference with top-class speakers from industry and the startup-scene is the RuhrPitch: Selected regional and international startups have the chance to present their company to the audience and the top-class jury, in which the management of the “Gründerfonds Ruhr” is involved. The “Gründerfonds Ruhr” is the first private-sector early-stage fund, financed by banks and industrial companies, brought into being by the economic alliance Initiativkreis Ruhr in cooperation with



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the NRW.BANK. Another highlight is the Rooftop-Party high above the roofs of Dortmund, with its primary focus being networking.

Focal Points: Social Entrepreneurship and Internationalization

Alongside the RuhrSummit as main-conference, ImpactSummit and InternationalSummit, our two sub-events, will create a thrilling mix with the focal points of social entrepreneurship and internationalization.

The Social Impact Lab Duisburg is initiator of the ImpactSummit, which will present the Ruhr Valley as hotspot for social innovations. Participants can expect innovative formats and top-class speakers such as skater-legend Titus Dittmann, Dr. Eckhart of Hirschhausen as well as members of Ashoka, the global leader in networking social entrepreneurship. Already, the ImpactSummit is being considered Germany's biggest conference for social startups.

For the first time, the InternationalSummit dedicates itself to the key topic of internationalization, initiated by the Chamber of Commerce and Industry of the Ruhr Valley. Aside from international speakers, more than 60 startups from more than 25 nations as well as representatives from known startup-hotspots like Tel Aviv, New York, South Korea or the Netherlands come to the Ruhr Valley. Even "startup-exotics" like Belarus, Nigeria or Kenya are being expected in Dortmund.

Tickets now available

Tickets for the RuhrSummit, including access to both sub-events are now available on the official website **www.summit.ruhr**.

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INITIATORS OF THE RUHRSUMMIT



About the 360 Online Performance Group

The 360 Online Performance Group has been developing its own online and mobile business models and accompanies external teams as a kind of “business fishing rod”, amongst other things by defining their business model, financing and their market entry. With its locations in Essen and Berlin, the 360 OPG has a far-reaching network.

About RuhrGründer.de

RuhrGründer.de is the online portal for the startup-scene in the Ruhr Valley. Founder Carmen Radeck, free journalist in the Ruhr Valley, blogs about news from the local startup-scene and gives an insight into the growing startup culture using interviews and portraits on founders and startups in the Valley.

About the Initiativkreis Ruhr

The Initiativkreis Ruhr is a cooperation of more than 70 leading companies and institutions. Together they employ about 2.25 million people worldwide and generate global turnover of about 630 billion euro. Goal of the Initiativkreis Ruhr is to advance the development in the Ruhr Valley and to strengthen its future viability and its competitiveness.

PREMIUMPARTNER OF THE RUHRSUMMIT

