



## **Announcement: Launch ceremony of the India-Croatia Startup Bridge**

Croatia's innovation and startup ecosystem has been growing at a rapid pace, particularly in the cities of Zagreb, Split, Rijeka and Osijek. The Croatian Digital industry has grown four times faster than Croatia's GDP, and this year it has become even more clear how much impact it has on exports.

In order to strengthen the innovation environment, India and Croatia have launched the India-Croatia Startup Bridge initiative. The Startup Bridge enables startups, investors, incubators, corporates, and aspiring entrepreneurs of both countries to connect and provide them with resources to expand and become globalized startups. This bridge serves as a technology infrastructure and common platform via which future. This will be the foundation for all programs being run for the advancement of the startup ecosystem between India & Croatia.

On this occasion, the Croatian Agency for SMEs, Innovation and Investments (**HAMAG-BICRO**) and **Startup India, DPIIT, Invest India and the Embassy of India in Zagreb** invite you to the launch ceremony of the India-Croatia Startup Bridge initiative. The purpose of this Croatian-Indian cooperation is to strengthen the current trade and economic cooperation between Croatia and India.

The initiative **India-Croatia Startup Bridge** will be officially launched at the site of [BIRD Incubator](#) (on Monday, **20 December 2021**, at **10:30am**, moderated by Željko Krizmanić, coordinator of BIRD Incubator. The entire event will be live streamed online (LINK will be confirmed additionally). On the India side, the participants will be addressed by the Joint Secretary, DPIIT, Ms. Shruti Singh, Ambassador of India to Croatia H.E. Raj Kumar Srivastava, Deepak Bagla, Managing Director & CEO, Invest India and on the Croatian side Mr. Bojan Batinić, Directorate for Internationalisation, Ministry of Economy and Sustainable Development (Croatia), Mr. Vjeran Vrbanc, Chairman of the Board of Directors of HAMAG-BICRO, Mr. Držislav Škeljo, Minister Counsellor, DCM of Embassy of the Republic of Croatia in the Republic of India and Mr. Matija Ražem, VP Business Development, Infobip. The program will also present examples of best practices of India-Croatia successful entrepreneurs.

The salient features of the India-Croatia Startup Bridge initiative:

1. Knowledge Exchange: Comprehensive guides and toolkits that will assist startups in both countries to evaluate expansion opportunities and technology transfers
2. Networking Opportunities: Enable connectivity among startups, mentors, investors, and incubators in relevant sectors from both countries
3. Hosting Joint programs: From Investor roundtables to startup exchanges and more, the portal will be a one-stop-shop to host all ecosystem programs
4. Capacity building platform: Access and application to events, competitions and workshops in both countries followed by partnerships with co-working spaces

More information on the India-Croatia Startup Bridge initiative is available at:  
<https://www.startupindia.gov.in/content/sih/en/international/india-croatia-bridge.html>

## AGENDA OF INDIA-CROATIA STARTUP BRIDGE LAUNCH CEREMONY

IST	CET	Sequence of event
3:00 PM - 3:05 PM	10:30AM - 10:35AM	Introduction and context setting by the moderator
3:05 PM - 3:10 PM	10:35AM - 10:40AM	Speech by Joint Secretary, DPIIT- Ms. Shruti Singh
3:10 PM - 3:15 PM	10:40AM – 10:45AM	Ambassador of India to Croatia – Mr. Raj Kumar Srivastava
3:15 PM - 3:20 PM	10:45AM - 10:50AM	Speech by Director of the Directorate for Internationalisation, Ministry of Economy and Sustainable Development (Croatia) - Mr. Bojan Batinić
3:20 PM - 3:25 PM	10:50AM - 10:55AM	Speech by Minister Counsellor, DCM of Embassy of the Republic of Croatia in the Republic of India – Mr. Držislav Škeljo
3:25 PM - 3:30 PM	10:55AM - 11:00AM	Speech by Mr. Deepak Bagla, Managing Director & CEO, Invest India
3:30 PM - 3:35 PM	11:00AM - 11:05AM	Brief speech from Mr. Vjeran Vrbanec, Chairman of the Board of Directors, HAMAG-BICRO
3:35 PM - 3:40 PM	11:05AM - 11:10AM	Brief speech from Mr. Matija Ražem, VP Business Development, Infobip
3:40 PM – 3:50 PM	11:10AM - 11:20AM	Bridge Launch & photograph.
<i>Indian and Croatian refreshments will be served afterwards, where you would have some chance for networking.</i>		