



PRESS RELEASE

DESPITE BREXIT, UK BEST COUNTRY TO START A BUSINESS SAYS 44% OF POPULATION

- *Greater optimism from UK population toward UK Economic outlook than European Economic outlook*
- *After the UK, Germany considered next best country to start a business, followed by Sweden, Switzerland and France*
- *Over half UK population are keen to start their own business, therefore 2 in10 people living in the UK will be entrepreneurs by 2018*
- *Access to the single market and the fundraising climate are top Brexit concerns for aspiring entrepreneurs*

London, 21 February 2017

Idinvest Partners, a leading investor in SMEs across Europe, today launched an annual study into the UK's attitudes towards entrepreneurship. Idinvest's UK Entrepreneurship Barometer measures the concerns of the next generation of entrepreneurial talent and therefore addresses the health of the UK's innovation ecosystem. In its first year, the Barometer poses questions about Brexit consequences, personal motivations, fundraising challenges and economic climate.

Despite concerns that Brexit might diminish the UK's position as one of Europe's leading business hubs, **44% of the UK population** still consider it the best country to start a business, **beating rivals Germany by a strong margin**. These findings can be seen as a vote of confidence in the outlook for the UK Economy with **57%** of all respondents **remaining optimistic** for the country's economic performance over the next 12 months where participants were **10% more concerned** by the European Economic outlook than that of the UK.

"While some future entrepreneurs will be considering their options in light of Brexit, the majority continue to see themselves as future business owners and start-up founders," said Christophe Bavière, CEO and Benoist Grossmann, Managing Partner at Idinvest Partners. "These findings clearly demonstrate the strong entrepreneurial drive at the heart of the nation and the belief that the UK continues to provide a supportive social and economic environment to foster this talent- a view that we continue to support. Over the past 20 years Idinvest Partners has helped build a dedicated ecosystem for entrepreneurs we look forward to supporting and growing the next generation of British talent."

"The British entrepreneurial climate is as hot as ever, we're a nation of creative thinkers who value hard work, ambition and aren't too keen on having a boss. It's disappointing that we've chosen to distance ourselves from Europe but I'm not surprised that budding UK

entrepreneurs aren't deterred, I don't see any reason right now why people shouldn't be hugely optimistic about starting their own business" comments Alex Saint, Co-Founder and CEO of Secret Escapes (An Iinvest portfolio company).

Here's how the UK views entrepreneurship at the beginning of 2017:

THE FUTURE OF ENTREPRENEURSHIP IN THE UK

- Over half the UK population are keen to start their own business, with 16% having definite plans to do so over the next year.
- Which means that currently almost 2 out of 10 people living in the UK will be entrepreneurs by 2018
- Younger generations in particular are very attracted to the idea of becoming entrepreneurs, with the following percentages of the population responding they are keen to become entrepreneurs in the future:
 - 76% of 18-24 years old
 - 70% of 25-34 years old
 - 66% of 35-49 years old
 - 48% of 50-64 years old
- Against this positive outlook, 60% of people surveyed believe that to start their own business they would need to be at least 30 years old

BREXIT

- 62% of the UK population believe that uncertainty surrounding the Brexit timeline is a constraint to starting a business in the UK.
- Participants were 10% more concerned about the European Economic outlook than the UK Economic outlook
- In light of Brexit, the top five issues concerning the next generation of entrepreneurs are:
 - Access to the single market (30%)
 - Fundraising Climate (29%)
 - Regulation (23%)
 - Investment in infrastructure (23%)
 - Consumer sentiment (21%)

FUNDRAISING

- 47% said that personal savings would be their most likely source of fundraising
- Fundraising is the second greatest area of concern for prospective entrepreneurs that they feel will be negatively impacted by Brexit

ECONOMIC OUTLOOK

- 57% of the UK population are optimistic about the outlook for the British Economy
- 67% of people motivated to start a business are optimistic about the outlook of the British Economy
- 59% of the UK population are pessimistic about the outlook for inflation

THE PROFILE OF THE BRITISH ENTREPRENEUR

- The overriding motivations for becoming an entrepreneur in the UK are:
 - financial success (48%)
 - freedom and independence (47%)

- Current and aspiring UK entrepreneurs are systematically more optimistic than the overall population on issues such as economic growth (+9 points), employment (+8 points), purchasing power (+10 points), and inflation (+9 points).
- The top 3 factors that are preventing UK entrepreneurs from launching their business are:
 - Financing
 - Ambition
 - An innovative idea

ABOUT THE SURVEY

The UK Barometer has been launched to complement the already established European Entrepreneurship Barometer which has been measuring sentiment towards entrepreneurship in Europe since 2009. Idinvest will compare the results year-on-year to build a comprehensive index of how attitudes to entrepreneurship in the UK continue to evolve.

The online survey was carried out by Viavoice on behalf of Idinvest Partners between 9th February and 15th February 2017. Sample of 1,500 people representative of the UK population aged 18 years and over. Representativeness determined through the quota sampling method to the following criteria: gender, age, respondent occupation, region.

For additional survey data please visit:

<http://www.idinvest.com/en/company/entrepreneurial-motivation-survey/entrepreneurial-motivation-survey-february-2017>

Follow the conversation on Twitter at [@idinvest](https://twitter.com/idinvest) with #IdinvestEntrepreneurs

ABOUT IDINVEST PARTNERS

With more than €7 billion under management, Idinvest Partners is a leading pan-European private equity firm focused on providing financing for small and medium-sized enterprise. Since its formation in 1997, Idinvest has financed more than 3,500 European businesses. Idinvest Partners has developed several complementary areas of expertise including investments in innovative European start-ups, primary, secondary and mezzanine investments in unlisted European companies, and private equity consulting. Founded under the name AGF Private Equity in 1997, Idinvest Partners was formerly part of Allianz until 2010 when it became an independent firm. www.idinvest.com

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