

Press Release

BFI and gener8tor Launch Startup Accelerator – New Impulses for Berlin’s Startup Ecosystem

Berlin, 10 April 2025 – The Berlin Finance Initiative (BFI) and US-based startup accelerator gener8tor have announced the launch of a new startup accelerator in Berlin. The programme specifically targets startups in the early stages of development – with the goal of supporting founders in building and validating their business models, accelerating growth, and raising the international visibility of Berlin’s startup ecosystem.

“Berlin’s startup scene is incredibly dynamic – but what’s often missing is targeted, structured support during the critical early stages,” says **Günther Petelin**, Head of Programs and Partnerships at the BFI. According to the *EY Startup Barometer*¹, the number of small funding rounds dropped sharply in 2024 – a clear signal that early-stage startups need more focused support. “That’s exactly where our Startup Accelerator comes in: offering funding, mentoring, access to networks, and a clear, structured program.”

The accelerator targets pre-seed startups across all industries. Two cohorts will be selected annually, each comprising five to six teams. Participants will take part in a 12-week, intensive mentoring and coaching program – including direct access to international investors, corporates, and experienced founders.

“We’re excited to have found a strong local partner in BFI,” says **Joe Kirgues**, Co-founder at gener8tor. “Berlin is one of the most exciting startup hubs in Europe – full of talent but with a lot of untapped potential. We want to help unlock that potential.”

gener8tor has supported more than **1,600 startups worldwide**, which have collectively raised over **\$2.5 billion in follow-on funding**. Studies show that accelerator programs play an increasingly important role in the global startup ecosystem: In the US, roughly **one-third of all Series A startups have completed an accelerator programme** – and this number continues to rise². In Europe as well, investors are increasingly focusing on accelerator alumni.

Gateway to the US Market

BFI and gener8tor strengthen transatlantic ties through innovation. This accelerator connects Berlin’s ecosystem with gener8tor’s powerful network across both Europe and the U.S. – fostering access to capital, exchange, and long-term resilience.

With programmes in over 49 cities – including acclaimed initiatives in Luxembourg and Italy – gener8tor is recognised as one of the most impactful early-stage platforms in the U.S. The partnership with BFI marks its first entry into the German market.

BFI brings deep roots in Berlin’s financial and tech ecosystem to the table. As one of the organisations behind flagship formats like the Fintech Festival FIBE and the House of Finance & Tech (HoFT.Berlin), BFI supports founders with strategic connectivity, content-driven guidance, and access to political networks.

About the Berlin Finance Initiative (BFI)

BFI is a Berlin-based company dedicated to driving innovation in the startup ecosystem. As an enabler and ecosystem builder, BFI drives initiatives such as the Fintech Festival FIBE and the House of Finance & Tech (HoFT.Berlin), offering strategic guidance, access to capital, and strong connections. With expertise in community-building, content, and funding, BFI connects startups, corporates, and investors to strengthen Berlin's role as a leading financial hub.

About gener8tor

gener8tor is a U.S.-based startup accelerator and venture capital firm with a global presence and a strong focus on diversity, equity, and access. Recognized as one of the most successful accelerator platforms worldwide, gener8tor has supported over 1,600 startups across 49+ cities and four countries, helping them raise \$2.5B+ in funding and create more than 11,600 jobs. In addition to its deep roots in the U.S., gener8tor has led internationally acclaimed programs in Luxembourg and in Italy. These initiatives reflect gener8tor's commitment to building inclusive, high-impact innovation ecosystems around the world.

Media Contact

Caroline Wahl
Berlin Finance Initiative
caroline.wahl@berlin-finance-initiative.de

Sources

¹ EY (2024): *Startup Barometer Germany – July 2024*. Available at:

<https://startup.ey.com/en/news/ey-startup-barometer-germany-july-2024>

² Kenan-Flagler Business School, University of North Carolina: *Do Accelerators Really Work?* Available at:

<https://www.kenan-flagler.unc.edu/news/do-accelerators-really-work>