Participation Day 2019

Inspirations from three perspectives – private sector

Tomasz Szymczak, Ph.D.
CEO of Gdansk Entrepreneurial Foundation
Participation Day 2019

- Acceleration
- Pre-incubation and incubation
- Office Space
- Education
- Workshops and trainings
- Export opportunities
- Events
In numbers:

- 100% occupancy
- 30 commercial companies
- 28 startups
- 170 virtual offices
- More than 50 external experts
- 11 coworking spaces & hot desks
- 3700 m² office space, including 1100 m² as an incubator

Since 2011

- More than 500 companies benefit from the support
- Over 600 new workplaces
- 13,000 enthusiasts in STARTER’s community
“If we learn anything from the history of economic development, it is that culture makes all the difference”

Prof. David Landes
The Wealth and Poverty of Nations
Harvard Univ. Press, 1999
Europe versus U.S.

Europe
no single European leading innovation center

U.S.
Silicon Valley – Stanford, Caltech and Berkeley
Route 128 – Boston Parkway – MIT, Harvard
Innovation is to the large extent a derivative of willingness to take risks.

- It is much higher in the U.S.
- Strict selection – but with privileges for those who pass.
- As a consequence far better and more fruitful way of monetizing scientific findings.
We are in the middle of a dramatic and broad technological and economic shift in which software companies are poised to take over large swathes of the economy.

Collectively, platforms dominate the Internet and our economy.

So the Internet we know it today is almost entirely dominated by platforms.

Network effects – whomever got big first would always win.
Three interconnected thrusts:

- **First** – connectivity has replaced division as the new paradigm of global organization – megacities, pipelines, Internet cables ...

- **Second** – devolution as most powerful force of our age – with an important counterpart – aggregation.

- **Third** – the nature of geopolitical competition is evolving from war over territory to war over connectivity.
Pre-infrastructure maps are increasingly irrelevant in today’s world.

By 2030, more than 70 percent of the world’s people will live in cities, with majority of them located within 50 miles of the sea.
“In this world, the optimists have it, not because they are always right, but because they are positive. Even when they are wrong they are positive, and that is the way of achievement, correction, improvement and success. Educated, eye-opened optimism pays.”

David Landes
“...because optimism drives the world. It always did and always will.”

Winston Churchill
Thank you for your attention 😊