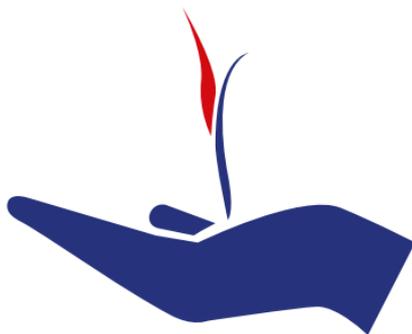




**FRANCE:**  
**A NATION OF  
ENTREPRENEURS**

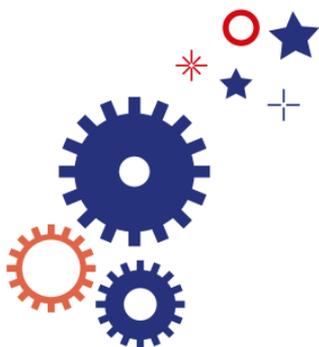
KEY INFO IN  
**10**  
POINTS

**FRANCE'S KEY STRENGTHS**



**MORE THAN  
690,000  
BUSINESSES  
CREATED  
IN 2018**

(INSEE, 2018)



**STATION F**  
**THE WORLD'S  
LARGEST  
INCUBATOR**

(STATION F)



**NEW FOREIGN  
INVESTMENT DECISIONS  
EVERY WEEK**

(BUSINESS FRANCE)

**BUSINESS FRANCE**

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# 1

## A DYNAMIC ECOSYSTEM

France's business environment was ranked 10th in the 2018 Global Entrepreneurship Index, coming sixth for entrepreneurial abilities and eighth for technology absorption ahead of Germany (ranked 14th and 12th, respectively). (Global Entrepreneurship Index, 2018)

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# 2

## BUOYANT ENTERPRISE CREATION

More than 690,000 businesses were created in France in 2018, up 17% from 2017 and the highest level ever recorded, with more than 28,500 in the manufacturing sector (INSEE). In 2016, France was the second leading European country for enterprise creation, with a net increase in active enterprises of 1.9%, compared with 0.2% in Germany. (Eurostat)

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# 3

## A BUSINESS-FRIENDLY ECONOMY

France is among the easiest countries in which to found a company: only 3.5 days are required, compared with 4.5 days in the United Kingdom, and 8 in Germany. (World Bank, Doing Business, 2018)

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# 4

## AWARD-WINNING ENTREPRENEURS

A number of French connected devices received awards at the 2019 Las Vegas Consumer Electronics Show, including Beelife, an eco-friendly connected hive created by CoCoon that protects bees from parasites; Snips, a smart, customizable voice assistant that respects your privacy; and Healsy, an app for diabetics that can predict hyperglycemic attacks.

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# 5

## EUROPE'S #2 VENTURE CAPITAL MARKET

In 2018, French startups raised more than €3.6 billion, €1 billion more than in 2017, through 645 transactions (EY). This represented a 7% increase in transactions and 41% of the amounts raised. Since 2014, a total of US\$11.7 billion has been raised in France. (CB Insights)

# 6

## EASY ACCESS TO FINANCE

SMEs continue to enjoy greater access to credit, with 95% being approved for investment loans and 87% cash loans in the second half of 2018 (Banque de France). Business Angels in France, of which there are roughly 5,000, provided €63 million in finance to new businesses in 2017. (eban)

# 7

## ATTRACTIVE FRENCH STARTUPS

French startups are increasingly attracting foreign investment. PeopleDoc, created under the name of Novapost in 2007 and specializing in human resources management software, was acquired in July 2018 by American tech company Ultimate Software for US\$300 million. The company, which employs 260 people and has more than 1,000 customers in 180 countries, has raised nearly US\$50 million since it was founded.

# 8

## CUSTOMIZED SUPPORT

Throughout France, a large number of business incubators and accelerator programs are enabling newly founded startups to receive coaching and advice, and to build up professional networks. In 2017, Station F, the world's largest incubator, with space for 1,000 startups, opened its doors in Paris.

# 9

## ENDURING SUCCESS AND UNICORNS

A number of 'unicorns' have been founded in France, including Criteo, which went public in 2013; BlaBlaCar, one of the world's leading ridesharing services; online fashion flash sales retailer Vente-privée.com, and Doctolib, which allows patient to book medical appointments online.

# 10

## A POSITIVE IMAGE

More than one-third of French people (37%) would like to start their own business (Idinvest Barometer, November 2018) and 18% plan to do so in the next three years (Global Entrepreneurship Monitor, 2018). What's more, 59% of French people view entrepreneurship as an attractive job choice and they are almost three times more likely to start a business when presented with the opportunity rather than out of necessity. (GEM, 2018)