Program: The KamaTech Accelerator for Ultra-Orthodox (Haredi) Entrepreneurs (Men and women)

Year: 2017-2018

Number of active participants in the program: 10 Haredi Entrepreneurs

Estimated number of impacted participants: 1000 (Family and close community of the entrepreneurs and their employees)

Give the actually state of the program (where the program stands at the date of the activity report, no more than ten lines):
The 3rd cohort of Kamatech’s acceleration program for haredi entrepreneurs started on September 2017 with 10 startups. The program aim is to develop and promote their technological enterprises. The core of the program was 4 months in which each company was assigned to an adopting successful startup, and received personal mentorship by senior executives and Work space within the premises of the adopting company. During that time they also had weekly workshops and professional training, and received assistance in connecting to potential investors, legal services and advice by senior lawyers and accounting services by professional accountants. At the end of the 4 months they went through a special workshop that prepared them to pitch their ideas to about 500 potential clients and investors from the industry, at 3 different demo-days - 2 in Tel Aviv and one in NY (March 2018). Right now we are at the end of the screening process for the next cohort, that will start the program in October 2018.

The main achievements during the last year of activity (main achievements, number of events, number of participants, etc.):
Some 600 ultra-orthodox entrepreneurs registered for KamaTech’s 3rd Accelerator. We selected 10 promising entrepreneurs with startups at the right stage, that our help could accelerate their advancement. To date, the cohort raised over 3 million dollars, employ 60 employees, and are currently in the process of raising 12 million more. One of the startups was bought by a big company and they continue to develop their technology. Other graduates are at various stages of developing their start-ups, expanding and recruiting employees.

250 participants attended the accelerator program final and most important event - the New York Demo Day in March 2018. In the event the 10 graduates of this year’s program presented their work, and the keynote speaker was Ms. Randi Zuckerberg.

444 ultra-orthodox hitech entrepreneurs participated in lectures and talks we conducted with leading entrepreneurs and investors, including Hemi Peres, Orni Petruschka, Ido Sadeh Man, Moshe Hogeg. 533 ultra-orthodox hitech entrepreneurs participated in a special event: ‘Failures Night’. Leading entrepreneurs including Naftali Bennett, the Minister of Education, Aharon Aharon, the CEO of the Israel Innovation Authority, Michael Eisenberg, Co-Founder of Aleph Venture Capital, and Izhar Shay, Managing General Partner at Canaan Partners Israel, talked about their biggest failures and how they helped them.

In November 2017 200 Haredi hitech entrepreneurs participated in 2 Hackathon contests we conducted - with Facebook and Microsoft. The Participants worked in groups to create a technological solution/initiative overnight.

We advertised our programs and activities on our Facebook page, in local newspapers, our website and in a weekly newsletter to our subscribers. This year we had hundreds of new subscribers and we now have over 7,000 active subscribers.

The evaluation (methodology, results, comparisons with the precedent year, conclusions for the future…):

We conduct continuous follow up on the progress of our participants in each of our programs. We also conduct a survey and a brainstorming session with the programs’ advisory board at the end of the program to learn how we can improve for the next cohort. We assess our progress and the progress of our participants by the following information systems:

- An organizational information system;
- Niloosoft Software - A comprehensive system to manage human resource data. It monitors all data of our participants, including the courses or events they undergo. We also use a platform to manage our participants’ resumes, which enables us to offer individually tailored assistance if necessary.

We measured the success of our program based on the following factors:

- The increasing number of participants who registered and took part in our programs and activities - lectures, workshops and special events..
- The number of digital visitors exposed to our programs and activities.
- The number of entrepreneurs and start-ups who registered to our programs.
- The amount of money our program participants managed to raise.
- The number of employees our participants managed to recruit.
We see the numbers of the above mentioned factors rise steadily with each year of operation. Only a few years back, there were a handful of active ultra-orthodox entrepreneurs in the Israeli hitech industry, and today it is becoming a sought after career in the ultra-orthodox community. This is a big indicator for us that our mission of introducing the Israeli hitech industry to the ultra-orthodox community through our Accelerator programs, lectures, conferences, and workshops, is working. In the future, we wish to continue this work, expose and integrate more and more technologically oriented ultra-orthodox entrepreneurs into the hi-tech ecosystem and enable the ultra-orthodox community not only to improve their economic situation but also to contribute to the Israeli economy.

**Provisional guidelines for the advancement of the program in the next year:**
We are now in the final stages of selecting our next cohort for the 4th Accelerator program. Some 600 ultra-orthodox entrepreneurs registered and we aim to select a group of 8-10 promising entrepreneurs to participate in the program. With each year we receive more quality applications, and this year we will assign VP level executives as personal mentors to each of the selected entrepreneurs, in order to give them the best starting point to the process.

Please join the Evaluation Report, the Financial Report and the list of the participants to the program (as PDF documents)

Please join photos – as JPG files – and any link or any other document connected to the program which will seems to you relevant – as PDF document.

Please join a 5 minutes movie which presents your institution and the particular project supported by the Matanel Foundation. The movie should be accessible to the philanthropic world and to other potential donors.