

Startup Ecosystem in Finland

I had a lot of fun exploring the startup ecosystem in Finland. Especially considering Aalto University is at the forefront of the startup culture. Here are just some of the places/organizations I have explored during my time in Finland:

Aalto University Startup Culture-Aalto is a big part of the startup culture in Finland. Slush was born in the Startup Sauna at Aalto University, and Slush is a pretty big deal in Europe and around the world. And just in general there are many opportunities and resources available to students at Aalto. For example:

- A Grid:
 - <http://agrid.fi/>
 - It houses startups, established businesses, coworking spaces, incubators/accelerators, and other resources for startups/entrepreneurs.
- Startup Sauna:
 - <http://startupsauna.com/>
 - They have a coworking space, host various startup events, house an accelerator program, and have various resources for startups and entrepreneurs. They are also the birthplace of: Aaltoes, Startuplifers, Junction, and Slush.

Helsinki Think Company

- <http://thinkcompany.fi/>
- It is a free coworking space that hosts bootcamps, idea accelerators, hackathons, mini challenges, and other startup related events.

Microsoft Flux

- <http://www.microsoftflux.com/>
- It is a free coworking space and a makerspace with 3D printers and other equipment. They also have office space and meeting rooms, and host various startup events there.

There were a few other places I got to explore, but too many to list on one page. Though in general the experience was amazing. And I loved the passion of the startup culture in Finland. There are so many opportunities and resources for entrepreneurs, and there are many startup events. Pretty much one startup event every day. And I took full advantage of that and participated in many startup events. I even ironed out the ideas for my business and participated in an Edtech Hackathon while I was in Finland. Which I won first place for, and one of the prizes was an opportunity to go back to Finland in the Fall for two other competitions/conferences. I look forward to going back to Finland and being part of the Finland startup ecosystem again.