

## Krakow a new station for start-ups. Startup Poland moves to the city by Wawel Castle

The City of Krakow is taking another bold step towards a technological future. After more than a decade of operating in Warsaw, the Startup Poland Foundation is moving its headquarters to the city by Wawel Castle.



Photo by Bogusław Świerzowski / krakow.pl

The new chapter of the Startup Poland Foundation will begin symbolically in a place that everyone associates with the beginning of a journey. The historic Central Station building will become a new space for startups, investors and cutting-edge technologies, from artificial intelligence to *smart city* solutions to *deep tech*. This is no coincidence. Krakow wants to be a "launching pad" for ideas that have the potential to change the world.

### Inauguration with the participation of the Mayor of Krakow

The official launch of Startup Poland in Krakow took place **today, 27 April**. The event was attended by Krakow Mayor Aleksander Miszalski and around a hundred representatives of the startup community, including founders, venture capitalists and leaders of innovation support organisations. The evening began with a speech by Anna Mazurek (CEO of Startup Poland), followed by the Mayor of the City of Krakow, Aleksander Miszalski: "Today's meeting has a symbolic and historic dimension," said the mayor. "In the heart of Krakow, we are opening the new headquarters of Startup Poland, an organisation that has been setting the directions of innovation in Poland for over a decade. This is not just a new address. This is a clear signal: the

technology map of Central and Eastern Europe is just being redrawn and Krakow is becoming a key point on it," he added.

The programme also included a keynote on the foundation's new phase and an expert panel on 'Ecosystem without Borders'. The discussion focused on how to effectively connect the worlds of business, administration and innovation and on why Krakow is becoming an attractive place for start-ups and investors.

### **Future technology**

One of the highlights of the evening was the presentations of six selected startups, which presented their solutions in front of an audience and potential investors. There was also a technological premiere. The VCMatcher tool, an artificial intelligence-based solution that helps connect founders with investors, was presented. The project, developed by Smok Ventures, has the ambition to become an important part of the global startup ecosystem with a distinctly Krakow accent.

### **Krakow attracts attention from across the industry**

The relocation of Startup Poland to Krakow is not only a change of address, but a clear signal to entrepreneurs that the city is now attracting the attention of key players – VC funds, startup creators and innovation-related decision makers.

It is also a moment of great significance for the city's image. Krakow is increasingly identified as a place where ideas, capital and talent intersect. The inauguration of Startup Poland may further accelerate this trend.

One thing is certain: Krakow does not just want to be part of the technological revolution. It wants to co-create it.