

**Warsaw, 13.09.2016**

HardGamma Ventures has signed a cooperation agreement with [EIT Digital](#), a European organisation driving the continent's digital transformation, to connect the Polish innovation ecosystem with EIT's ARISE network of 130 partners, representing global companies, leading research centres and top ranked universities.

HardGamma's cooperation with EIT Digital will foster innovation for startups operating in Poland by providing access to a number of programmes aimed at stimulating growth and providing visibility at a European level.

"We welcome this agreement with EIT as it recognises HardGamma Ventures as a leader of local innovation in the Polish digital industry," said Paweł Ciesielski, Managing Partner at HardGamma Ventures, on signing the agreement.

"We hope that EIT's expansion eastward will help HardGamma Ventures in delivering greater added-value to the startup and scale-up communities in the CEE region," Ciesielski added.

"This is another step for Polish startups ecosystem towards strengthening our European and global recognition not only as a source of talented digital specialists but also companies aiming at disrupting international markets," said Tomasz Kowalczyk, Growth and Innovation Designer at HardGamma Ventures, who will be leading the project in Poland.

We are going to help Polish scale-ups, startups that have already built their presence and revenue streams in the Polish market, to benefit from support offered by EIT Digital – a unique mixture of mentorship and cross-border networking allowing to conquer European market," Kowalczyk added.

"We look forward working with these new innovation centres to extend the reach of our pan European programme of leading digital entrepreneurship, innovation and education activities," said Willem Jonker, CEO of EIT Digital.

"The CEE region is a particularly interesting focus for our expansion; Poland for example, has one of the fastest growing economies in Europe, a large student population and [...] an increasingly vibrant ecosystem of innovators and investors in the digital space," Jonker added.

"HardGamma is the first venture ARISE Europe is cooperating with and a major player in Polish innovation landscape. [...] Working with [HardGamma] will allow us to identify the most promising digital startups in the regions and introduce them to a wider, pan European range of investment and market opportunities," explained Fabio Pianesi, Research Director of EIT Digital.

For more information, contact [Tomasz Kowalczyk](#) at HardGamma Ventures



### **About HardGamma Ventures:**

HardGamma Ventures has been at the forefront of technology investments since its establishment in Warsaw, Poland, back in 2011. We proactively look for and invest in startups within the software, hardware, IoT and mobile environments among other sectors. We invested in two editions of the Springboard accelerator (Springboard London and Springboard IoT), as well as in Techstars London. We also run our own accelerator, GammaRebels, which is one of the [top 100 most influential accelerators globally](#). GammaRebels also operates a number of pre-acceleration programs.

### **About EIT Digital:**

EIT Digital is the leading European digital innovation and entrepreneurial education organisation driving Europe's digital transformation.

EIT Digital invests in strategic areas to accelerate the market uptake of research-based digital technologies focusing on Europe's strategic, societal challenges: Digital Cities, Digital Industry, Digital Wellbeing and Digital Infrastructure.

EIT Digital breeds T-shaped entrepreneurial digital talent focused on innovation through a blended Education Strategy that includes a Master School, Doctoral School and Professional School.

As a Knowledge and Innovation Community of the European Institute of Innovation and Technology, EIT Digital is focused on entrepreneurship and is at the forefront of integrating education, research and business by bringing together students, researchers, engineers, business developers and entrepreneurs. This is done in our pan-European network of Co-Location Centres in Berlin, Eindhoven, Helsinki, London, Paris, Stockholm, Trento, as well as in Budapest and Madrid.