

# **STARTUP** **SPIDER**

Membership Principles

**Document History**

Version	What	Who	When
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**Table of Contents**

1. Goal of this document ..... 2

2. Membership..... 2

    2.1. Membership roles..... 2

        2.1.1. Passive “member” ..... 2

        2.1.2. Active “member” – additionally to passive member ship ..... 2

        2.1.3. Executive Committee..... 2

    2.2. Membership request ..... 2

    2.3. Membership obligations..... 3

3. Membership Principles ..... 3

4. Membership benefits ..... 4

    4.1. Benefits for passive membership and active membership ..... 4

    4.2. Benefits which apply only for active members..... 4

5. Annual Membership Fee..... 4

6. Terminating Membership ..... 5

    6.1. Terminating membership ..... 5

    6.2. Membership terminates:..... 5

## 1. Goal of this document

This document describes the principles of the “StartupSpider”- Membership group.

## 2. Membership

### 2.1. Membership roles

- The Membership group has two types of memberships: Active Membership and Passive Membership.

#### 2.1.1. Passive “member”

- In case you are your company is a Crowdfunding platform (this term is used for Crowdfunding platforms and similar platforms e.g. Trading platforms, hubs, labs etc) the platform is getting connected (“portal concept”. Implementation date based on “best effort”)
- Enlarge your customer base, by getting the opportunities on your platform displayed to the users of StartupSpider
- Getting access to startups which match your criteria
- Benefit from the learnings of others and shape the eco-system together (therefore also interesting for other type of firms)
- Logo is getting displayed on our website
- Members with services and activities supporting startups in their development (e.g. incubators, organizations helping startups to prepare business case etc, startup-associations, Crowdfunding platform etc) are able to present them self’s in the StartupSpider-“*find your fit*”. “*Find your fit*” is built to help startups to find the right company/platform for the next development step and for investors to see which investment platform (e.g. Crowdfunding platform) is focusing on what (investor types / startup types)

#### 2.1.2. Active “member” – additionally to passive member ship

- Access to working groups and the developed outcome (e.g. investor checklist, research, regulatory topics)
- Getting access to startups which match your criteria
- Advanced information
- Benefit from centrally developed APIs
- Priority over “passive member” in regards onboarding (connecting platform)
- 1000 “StartupSpider”-CreditPoints which can get used on StartupSpider application for additional services

#### 2.1.3. Executive Committee

- StartupSpider GmbH builds the Executive Committee and is also taking care of the coordination of the membership group.
- The Executive committee is in charge of the “StartupSpider Membership Principles” and maintains it. Members are invited to provide input
- Passive “members” which make a significant contribution to one of the “StartupSpider”-projects (e.g. H2020) will benefit one year from the same benefits as active “members”. Who fulfils the criteria is decided by the Executive Committee

### 2.2. Membership request

- Any individual involved and interested in the objectives of the Association may apply for membership

- The Executive Committee shall decide as to the acceptance or not of any application and similarly decide into which category the applicant shall be placed
- Should the Executive Committee reject an application for membership then the reasons for this shall be communicated to the applicant in question together with the possibility of appeal to the General Assembly. The General Assembly shall then decide on the application in question

### **2.3. Membership obligations**

- To endorse the rules of membership
- To pay the annual membership fee
- Not to bring the Association in disrepute.
- Membership is personal and non-transferable.

## **3. Membership Principles**

StartupSpider takes great pride in its membership. It is important to us that members feel respected, heard and included in everything that we do. We regularly survey our members to ensure that the services we provide, the actions we take and the decisions we make are in line with the thoughts of our members. We aim to represent all our members with utmost professionalism, with integrity, with respect for others and in a way, which engages a broad set of partners to deliver an agenda which is set out by our Executive Committee. To be successful, we depend on our members to work with us, in partnership and across a wide range of activities. Our reputation and the reputation of our members are intricately entwined and therefore we set expectations of ourselves in terms of acceptable conduct which we feel should be reflected in the conduct of our members. We consider acceptable conduct to be:

- Be willing to engage in programmatic work to build knowledge and expertise
- Being an active participant in community events, programs, networks, working groups and initiatives.
- Demonstrating reciprocity by reaching out and sharing our expertise and advice with fellow members and responding to requests in a timely manner.
- Being aware of other members' interests, helping to identify opportunities within our broader networks, and actively championing each other.
- Members will seek business opportunities to work closely with other members
- Some artefacts and developed results can also get used and published on the members websites (or similar). But the source ("Membership group of StartupSpider") always needs to get clearly stated.
- Members will ensure that news and business opportunities are disseminated within their organization
- Respect requests for confidentiality or proper handling of sensitive information
- Members will advise the executive committee if any issue emerges in their own work or their community which has the potential to impact the reputation of the membership group
- A Crowdfunding platform may get technically onboarded on "StartupSpider"-Platform and the Crowdfunding projects/opportunities will get displayed to the users of StartupSpider. This allows the Crowdfunding platform to enlarge the customer base (passive members getting technically connected on "Best effort"). However, StartupSpider depends on the technical implementation of the interface (and stability) of a connected Crowdfunding platform. Therefore it is in the Crowdfunding platforms' interest to communicate changes on their side early and also support with testing during onboarding. The correctness of the data always remains with the origin.
- Data and information made available by the Crowdfunding platform will be stored on StartupSpider for efficiency reason, for analytics and reference-/market data purpose.
- The members are benefiting from the size of this eco-system. To allow the eco-system to grow, the members will support by informing their users/customers about StartupSpider and the cooperation.

## 4. Membership benefits

Some benefits apply for both types of memberships (active and passive), some only for active members

### 4.1. Benefits for passive membership and active membership

- A Crowdfunding platform may get technically onboarded on “StartupSpider”-Platform. This allows the Crowdfunding platform to enlarge the customer base (passive members getting technically connected on “Best effort”). However, StartupSpider depends on the technology (and stability of a connected Crowdfunding platform. Therefore it is in the Crowdfunding platforms’ interest to communicate changes on their side early)
- Benefit from the learnings of the others and shape the eco-system together
- Logo is getting published on StartupSpider website

### 4.2. Benefits which apply only for active members

- Access to working groups and the developed outcomes e.g.
  - investor checklist
  - research
  - regulatory topics
  - others
- The working groups (active members) decide which developed outcomes are getting reviewed and / or shared with the passive members
- Some working groups the active members will decide to make it open also to passive members (for the benefit of all e.g. to get a larger base of input or views). The active members can decide at any time to restrict the working group again (“for active members only”)
- Getting access to startups which match your criteria
- Advanced information and reports (accepting GDPR)
- Benefit from centrally developed APIs
- Priority over “passive member2 in regards onboarding (connecting platforms)
- The StartupSpider Newsletter contains regularly also a section which can be used by an active member to describe their company or their service offering or a story about their customers (e.g. in case of a Crowdfunding platform e.g. the investee). This input will be reviewed and approved by StartupSpider, to make sure it fits with the rest of the newsletter

## 5. Annual Membership Fee

- Membership is per calendar year. The Association’s membership year runs from 1 January to 31 December in a given year.
- The annual membership fee is decided by the Executive Committee
- If the membership fee needs to get increased (due to workload / planned work packages for the upcoming year), the membership fee will get communicated by the executive committee end of October, to allow the members to cancel the membership in time, if they wish

## 6. Terminating Membership

### 6.1. Terminating membership

Notification of termination of membership by a member shall be done:

- In writing to StartupSpider GmbH
- At least one calendar month before the start of a new membership year.
- Members whose fees are not paid within three months after the due date, shall be considered to have terminated their membership in the Association at which time services shall be discontinued.
- The annual membership fee is not refundable.

### 6.2. Membership terminates:

- Upon the dissolution of the company
- Upon notification by a member.
- Upon notification by the StartupSpider GmbH:
  - Termination of membership shall be implemented if a member does not fulfil the obligations of membership;
  - Termination of membership shall be implemented in case of non-compliance with the annual membership fee.
  - Upon expulsion of a member:
    - The Executive Committee is entitled to expel a member;
    - Expulsion of a member can only be done when a member acts against the Constitution, the Bylaws, the decisions of the Association, or brings the Association in disrepute;
    - Should the Executive Committee expel a member then the reasons for this shall be communicated to that member together with a notification of the possibility of appeal to the General Assembly. The General Assembly shall then decide on the expulsion in question;
    - Pending appeal, a member is suspended.