

NEF+

Welcome to our Winter Update!

December is the end of the calendar year but it is also our anniversary month with CFE having been founded in December 2010. As our thirteenth year closes out, our activities are as broad as ever with barrel-loads to report on across our research, programmes and networks.

You can read about some of the highlights from our last six months in this Winter Newsletter, but to kick things off, whether you are celebrating a birthday like ours, Christmas or any other event over the next few weeks, why don't you start with a selection of books recommended by some of our staff, trustees and supporters.

Read on for more ↓

Books for Entrepreneurs



We asked some of CFE's staff, trustees, partners and donors for their thoughts on must-read books they have encountered this year on relevant topics such as entrepreneurship, business strategy, economics or wider trends that might be driving new opportunities. [See them all here](#)

NETWORKS

Incubator & Accelerator Network



It has been a busy few months for IAN, welcoming new members including The Royal Academy of Engineering, and a series of all member meetings included a presentation from

the lead researcher for the International Labour Organization's recent report on entrepreneurial ecosystems.

February will see IAN members travel to Paris on a best practice tour to gain insights into the start-up ecosystem, visiting key stakeholders such as Station F and widening their networks in Europe. You can join us - [sign up here](#)

In March we will host the IAN annual conference for the UK's leading accelerator and incubator managers at King's College London with a theme of 'looking to the future'. [Early bird tickets are now available](#)

NETWORKS

Refugee Entrepreneurship Network



The 6th Refugee Entrepreneurship Network was held in Izmir, Turkey in October. Hosted by the Izmir municipality and Originn, the largest co-working space in Turkey. Practitioners from around the world spent three days sharing best practice, hearing from innovative organisations such as Ben & Jerry's and visiting local support organisations. [Find out more](#)

January will see us convene a roundtable for corporates and funders of refugee entrepreneurship to discuss their challenges and opportunities as well as present their priorities to practitioners. If you are interested in attending, [please register here](#).

PROGRAMMES

NEF+ Alumni Updates and Demo Day



November saw the second NEF+ Alumni Demo Day, kindly hosted by Rathbones - bringing together an exciting handpicked selection of NEF+ alumni to pitch their businesses to angels and early stage investors.

Great to see The Olive Oil Guy getting stocked in Harrods and even better to see it selling out that very same day! Incredible work Mazen Assaf (NEF+ S2023)! [Read more](#)

RideTo celebrates it's 6th year of trading with some great statistics including that they've surpassed £14M gross sales. Well done James Beddows (NEF+ 2017)! [Read more](#)

Congratulations to Alex Chobysnov (NEF+ S2023) who won the Innovate UK Build Award for Skillanthropy, a platform connecting skilled professionals with non-profit organisations for skill-based volunteering. [Read more](#)

RESEARCH

Research Activities



In partnership with DSIT and Innovate UK we hosted two roundtables, one gathering thoughts on the [spin out review](#), the other on wider initiatives affecting the entrepreneurship and innovation sector.

We organised a further policy roundtable discussion for members of our Refugee Entrepreneurship Network, bringing together policymakers to delve into the insights presented in Dr. Michelle Richey's [recent report](#).

FUNDRAISING / THANKS

BGF

CFE can only operate thanks to the generous support of our donors and supporters.

One such, is BGF, an independent investment company that, like CFE, is driven to support entrepreneurs across the UK. This month they appointed a new Chairman and we wish him the very best in his new role.

Thank you, as always to all of our donors and supporters who we rely on for the work we do.

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