

ICURE pilot programme

United Kingdom

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The case study provides an analyst perspective on the ICURE pilot programme supporting academic spin-offs in the United Kingdom, describing its objectives, main challenges, and quantitative evidence on its impacts.

Topics covered

Academic spin-offs, pilot programme, early-career researchers, impact assessment

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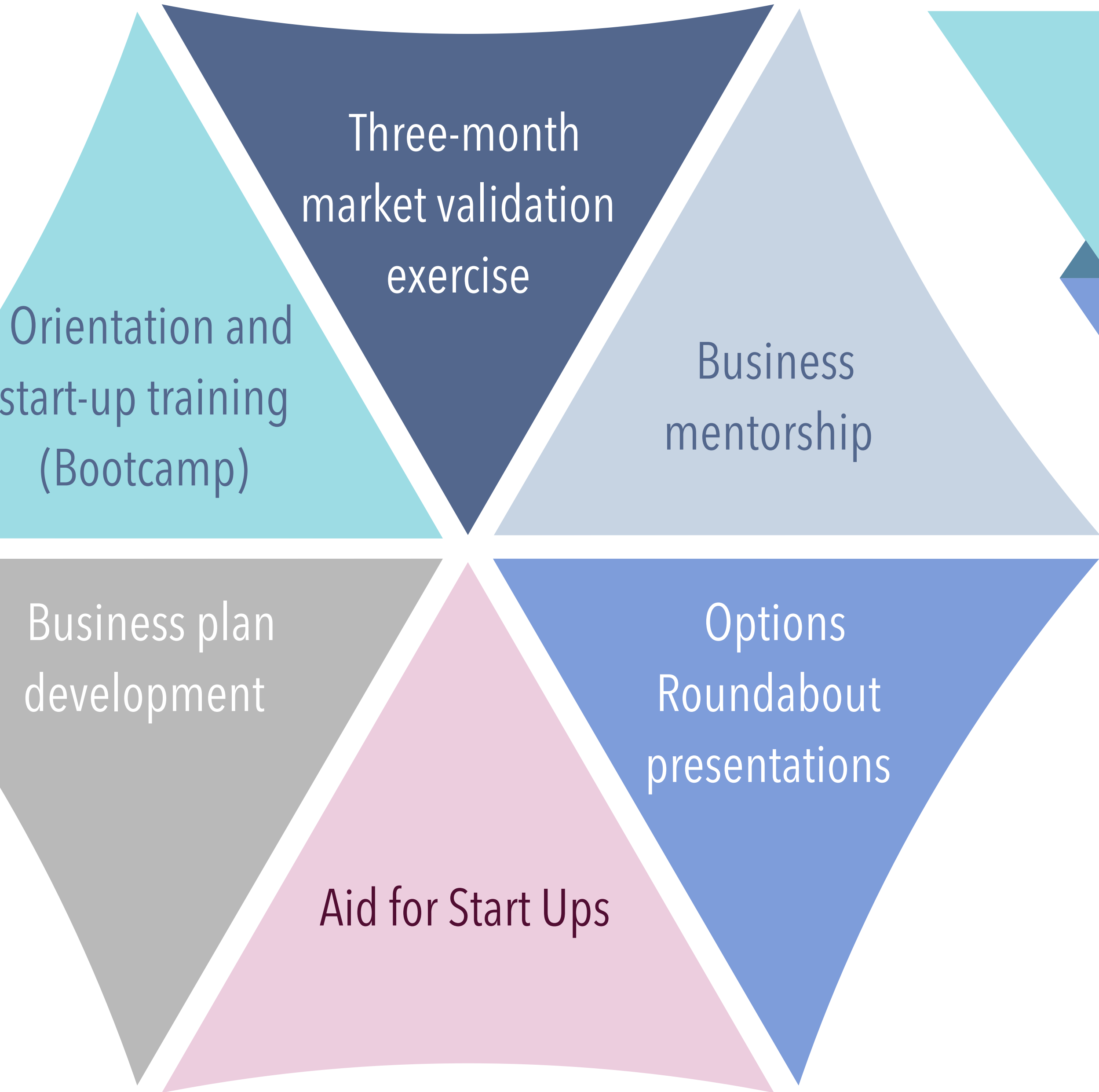
What is the ICURE pilot programme?

- Launched in **2014**, ICURE **provides funding** to initial spin-off activity of early-career researchers
- Pilot implemented in **universities in Southern England**
- Expansion of pilot to **Queens University Belfast and the University of Warwick** in 2018
- Funding provided by **HEFCE Catalyst Fund and Innovate UK**

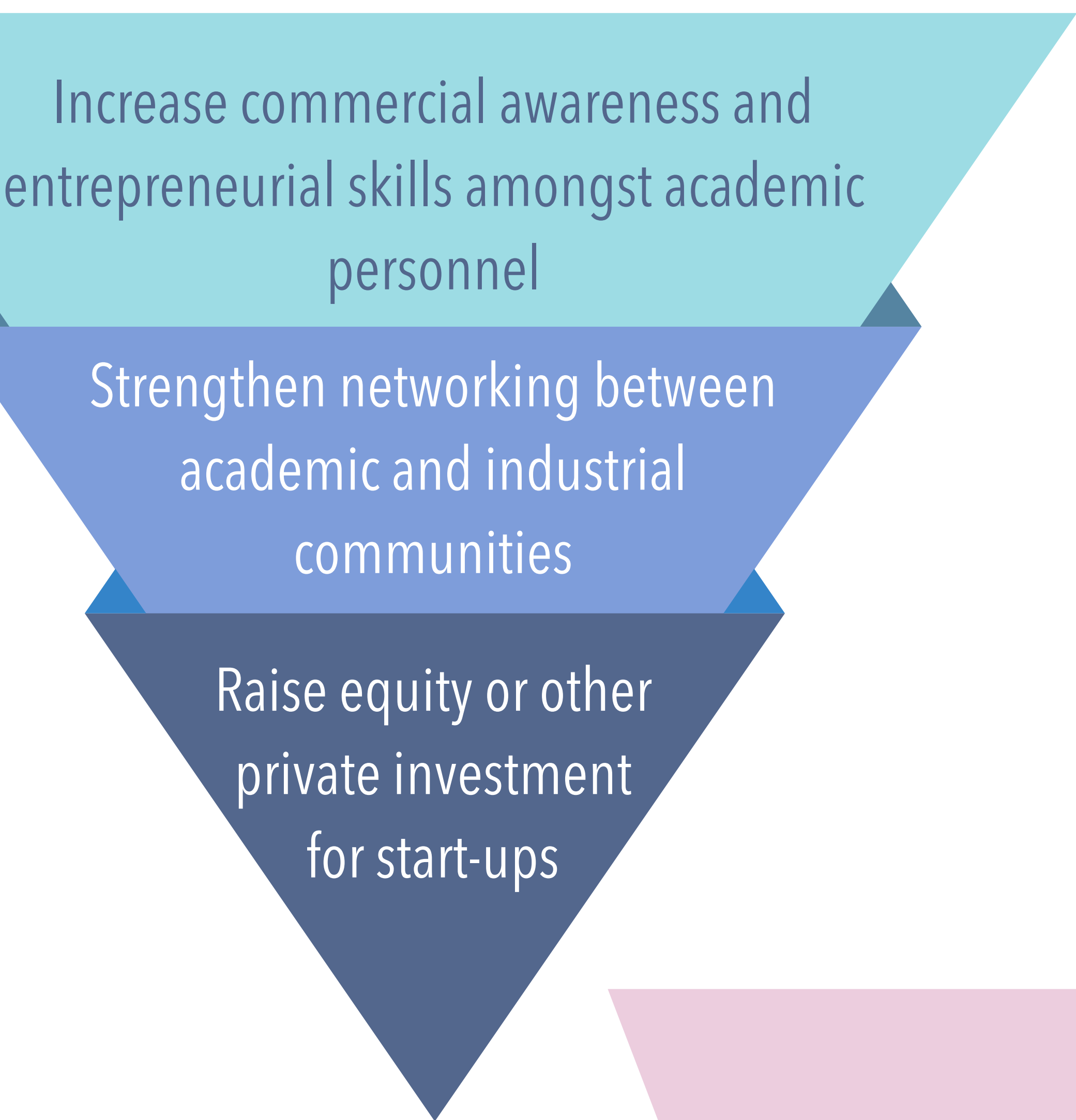
Objectives

Increase the probability of success of high-potential spin-offs

Support services provided



Main challenges



Develop entrepreneurial skills & market knowledge of early career researchers

Provide lessons on how a national rollout could be optimally implemented

Budget

GBR 3.2 million (pilot programme) for 2014-2017

Selection criteria of project

Each project team required participation of early career researcher, Principal Investigator, and a Technology Transfer Officer

Interaction with other policy instruments/programmes

- Knowledge Transfer Partnerships (**KTP**)
- Researcher to Innovator (**R2I**)
- **SETsquared** Business Incubator
- Royal Academy of Engineering (**RAEng Enterprise Fellowship**)
- **Enterprise** Fellowship Scheme
- **Private seed accelerator** and incubator programmes

Impact

- Participation in the **programme increased and deepened links** between participating academics and industry
- **44 new spin-off** companies produced
- **24 spin-offs** would not have been created in the absence of the programme
- Creation of **GBP 3.94 of economic benefits for every GBP 1** invested
- **18% of participants** had secured a licensing agreement
- **Faster development** of business models among participants
- **Methods** used for impact assessment: Counterfactual analysis of unsuccessful teams using difference-in-difference estimation