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**Subject: Carpathian Startup Fest 2023 - III edition**

Rzeszowska Agencja Rozwoju Regionalnego S.A. is a business environment institution that supports comprehensive development of Podkarpackie Region since 1993. It runs this activity by concentrating and mobilising the potential of local communities as well as providing advice services on the processes of opening and supporting business ventures, as well as promoting the region and acquiring foreign aid. The Company achieves these goals in cooperation with a wide range of local, regional and international partners, as well as financial institutions, local government units and universities.

In 2021, in order to meet the need to support innovative ideas and solutions, Rzeszowska Agencja Rozwoju Regionalnego S.A. organised the first festival in the Podkarpacie region dedicated to entrepreneurship and technology and aimed at start-ups, called Carpathian Startup Fest. The success of the first and second edition of the event caused that the Management Board of Rzeszowska Agencja Rozwoju Regionalnego S.A. decided to organise the next Carpathian Startup Fest edition. This time this event will take place on 15-16 June 2023 at the G2A Arena Exhibition and Congress Centre in Jasionka.

The 3rd edition of Carpathian Startup Fest is based on three pillars. The first, and most important, is the Demo Day competition, where creators of innovative ideas, startups and scaleups will present their ideas and solutions in front of experts, business environment institutions, potential investors and representatives of investment funds. The competition, with a total prize amount of PLN 100,000 and an additional prize, a participation in Sebastian Kulczyk's InCredibles acceleration programme, is divided into three categories:

- Category I - Best business idea (Idea Challenge) - that includes applications from people who have interesting startup ideas and would like to get support for them;

- Category II - Best Startup - for projects that are in the incubation phase, creating an MVP (minimum product version) or first sale, and whose project revenues have not yet exceeded PLN 200,000.;

- Category III - Best Scaleup - for projects submitted by companies selling products or services whose project revenues exceeded PLN 200,000.

The second pillar of the festival is a conference on how to develop a startup - building teams, acquiring funding and customers. This part of the event will be attended by leading representatives of the Polish startup, business and scientific community. During the conference, there will also be an opportunity to get to know the stories of entrepreneurs, learn more about their successes, but also failures as well. The motto of the 3rd edition of Carpathian Startup Fest 2023 is: How I did it.

The third element of Carpathian Startup Fest 2023 is networking, through which entrepreneurs from the startup ecosystem will be able to get to know each other and create cooperation ideas.

Therefore, bearing in mind the mission and objectives of your institution, the Board of the Rzeszów Regional Development Agency S.A. would like to kindly invite you to participate in the Carpathian Startup Fest 2023 event. To do so, please register your participation by filling in the registration form available at: [www.carpathianfest.pl](http://www.carpathianfest.pl). The same time we would like to ask you to spread the news about the Competition and the Carpathian Startup Fest 2023 event among your business partners, customers and colleagues.

We remain at your disposal should you require any additional information. The contact person is Mr Dawid Adamski - Director of the Marketing and Sales Office at Rzeszowska Agencja Rozwoju Regionalnego S.A., tel. 17 86 76 283, e-mail: [jkunysz@rarr.rzeszow.pl](mailto:jkunysz@rarr.rzeszow.pl).

Feel free to check more details about the event in the official website: [www.carpathianfest.pl](http://www.carpathianfest.pl).