



February 1st, 2010

Veraventure: a Microsoft BizSpark success story

EBAN and Microsoft are working closely together to support European business angels and start-ups through two Microsoft-led programs, BizSpark and the European Grant Advisor (EUGA). Almost 30 of EBAN's members associations have now signed up as BizSpark Network Partners in 18 countries across Europe.

One example of the successful partnership between EBAN and Microsoft is Veraventure, a Finnish venture capital company (<http://www.veraventure.fi/>). Veraventure has invested in several Microsoft BizSpark member companies including Brieftec Ltd, Ecore Oy, Miradore Oy, Oy Clarivision Ltd and Techila Technologies Ltd. "BizSpark creates concrete savings and added value for our investee companies, and thus for us as well. For startups the program is also a door to more extensive relationship with one of the biggest global players." Says Hannu Jungman, one of Veraventure's managers.

Says Kim Nielsen, Local Software Economy Lead, Microsoft, "We're particularly proud of all these companies and want them to have the market recognition they deserve. This is why Microsoft Finland nominated Miradore Oy, a configuration management company, for Information Week's Startup 50 project."

"Looking ahead, we are anticipating even greater momentum around BizSpark in the region: the main focus for us is helping Nordic start-ups access government grants through our EUGA program, which is already very strong in Sweden and becoming stronger in Finland, as we partner with the Network Partner community and the Business Angel investors."

Read more about the Microsoft BizSpark programme for start ups at:
<http://www.microsoftstartupzone.com/pages/home.aspx>