

## **BIOGRAPHY *Kris Vander Velpen***

Kris Vander Velpen, born at Leuven Belgium, february 9, 1958 has developed a unique and international recognized expertise by coaching and mentoring companies, organizations and/or people to build ventures or new activities.

These ventures have acquired the capabilities to grow exponentially and this in a sustainable manner due to alliances and partnerships with other companies, organizations, governmental bodies, universities, knowledge centers and/or customer organizations.

Kris developed this expertise due to a large diversity of functions he executed throughout his career.

In the period sept. 1985 till sept.1986, as a product manager of Bekaert ( a large multinational steelwire company) International Trade, Atlanta, GA, US, he elaborated, built and realized the business roll-out of an incubator hub for non-Bekaert products in the US.

In the period march 1990 till dec. 1992, as a regional development manager of the cooperation unit “Strategic Plan Kempen”, he was responsible for stimulating the endogeneous growth of a geographical area in the Flanders (+/- 400.000 inhabitants) faced with high unemployment using strategic planning techniques (in close collaboration with Janssen Pharmaceutica (J&J)). His core team focusing on socio-economic themes grew from 2 to 30 people, with a direct and indirect responsibility for +/- 150 people. The SME Growth Scheme (PLATO), the childcare approach (KIKO), the Long Unemployed Reintegration Programs (WEB) and/or the early stage fund (SPIKE) are considered as exemplary within a European context.

In the period januari 2002 and march 2009, as general manager of Fortis Venturing (core team of 20 people), Kris developed a “service incubator and accelerator hub” within a leading international bank/insurance group Fortis, resulting in a portfolio of 38 intrapreneurial and entrepreneurial ventures with sustainable direct results (bottom-line core sales impact-multiplicator of minimum 20 Euro additional sales year on year for 1 Euro investment after 2

years) and indirect results (organizational vitality, ecosystem strength and knowledge acquisition).

Due to the strong obtained results, IMD Business School at Lausanne, Switzerland, Vlerick Business School at Gent, Belgium, Flanders Business School and KU Leuven documented the approach in several business cases, still being used within their current programs.

Coordinating the KEA project, together with his core team, Kris has been building from January 2014 till February 2016, a “healthcare solutions” industry cluster, commissioned by the Flemish Government (“Agentschap Ondernemen”). Within this limited time period 7 starters and 5 scale-ups could be created due to the effective processes and approaches being used.

In the period march 2009 till now, Kris, as an independent consultant, is building and implementing tailor-made innovation practices (f.e. Bootcamp programs, business opportunity scouting schemes, business case development support, corporate venturing and intrapreneurship development programs....) within major profit and non-profit companies or organizations as well as governmental bodies) In Belgium and Netherlands( Exmar, Alcatel-Lucent, J&J, DCM, Deceuninck, Flanders Plastic Vision (Change2Micro program), Huntsman, Innogy, SABIC, Vulpia, Soudal, Kringwinkel Antwerpen, Alternatief, NIZO, KIC InnoEnergy, Flemish Ministry for Economy, Science and Innovation,....) in Belgium and Netherlands

Throughout his whole career Kris Vander Velpen has combined these functions with a teaching tenure as an executive professor “innovation and entrepreneurship” within several business schools/universities in Belgium and Netherlands (Flanders Business School, Thomas More, Erasmus Rotterdam and KU Leuven) and he is (co)author of several management articles and management books. His research focuses now on “adaptive business modeling”.