











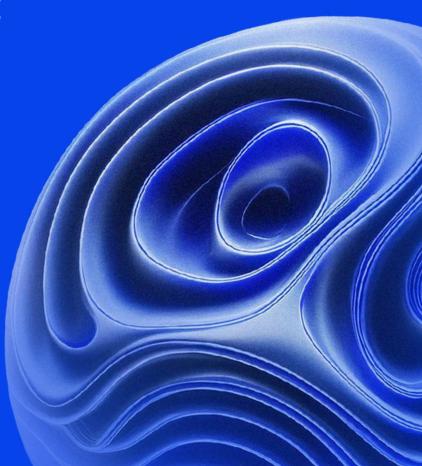




# The Spanish tech ecosystem

Report 2024





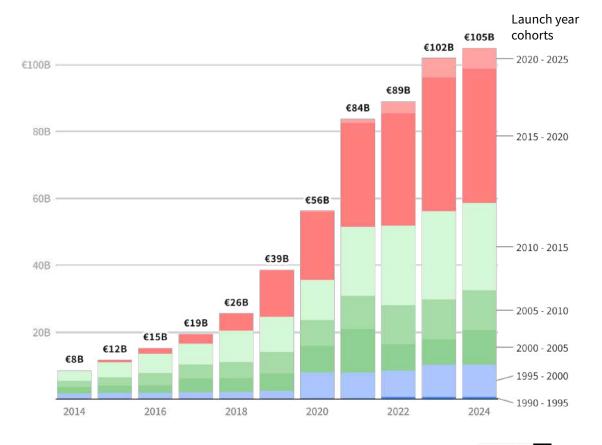
- 1 The rise of Spanish tech
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# The combined enterprise value of Spanish startups has surpassed €100B in 2023.

#### Source:

Dealroom.co. Sum of the valuations of all startups in the ecosystem. Using estimated valuations based on most recent VC rounds, public markets and publicly disclosed valuations.

#### Combined enterprise value of Spanish startups by launch year » Live data



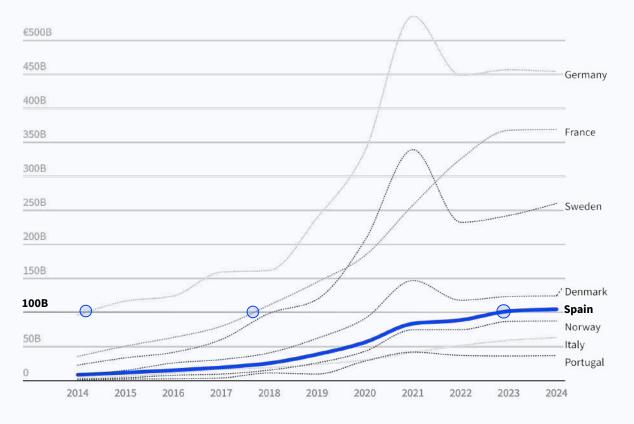




### Ecosystem value of selected European ecosystems

# Spain has grown into a midsize player in Europe.

Spain's EV remains above its Southern European counterparts, but behind the top European ecosystems, as France reached €100B 6 years ago, Germany 9 years ago.



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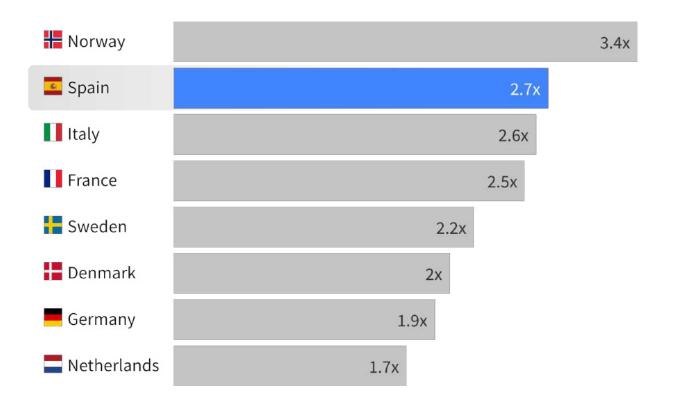






The value of Spanish tech is one of the fastest growing among Europe's major ecosystems.

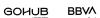
#### EV Growth of selected European ecosystems, 2019-2024







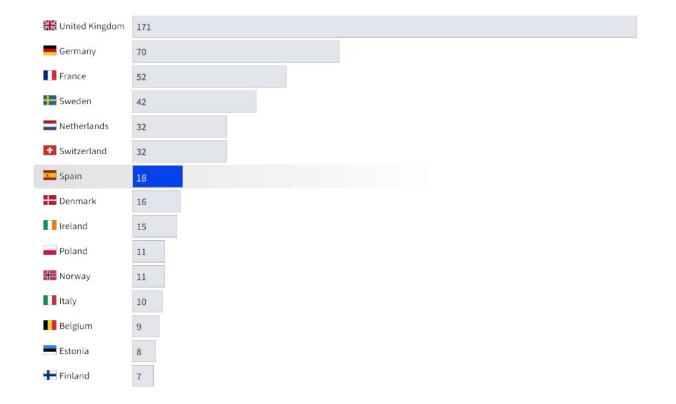






**Spanish ranks** 7th in Europe by number of unicorns.

#### European countries by number of unicorns and \$1B exits » Discover Spanish unicorn



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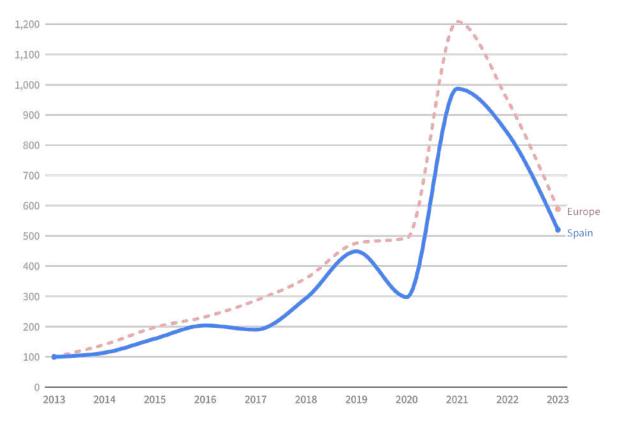






VC investment growth has been trending below Europe average, but follows a similar curve.

# Spain VC investment growth vs European average 2013 indexed to 100



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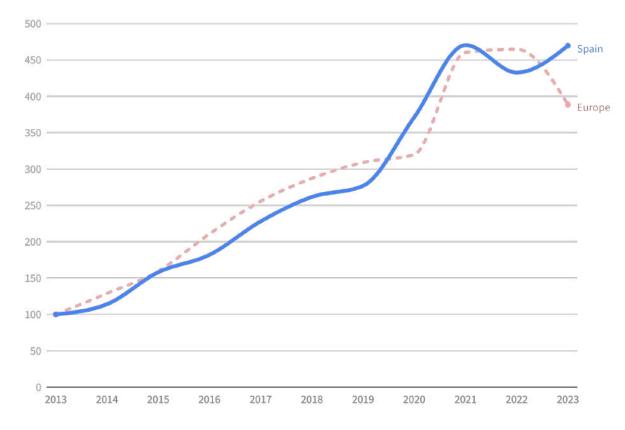




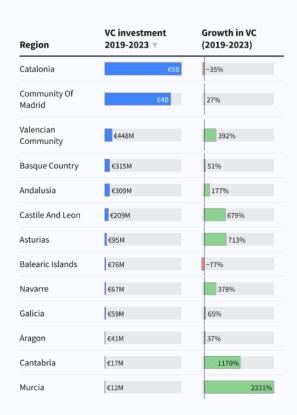


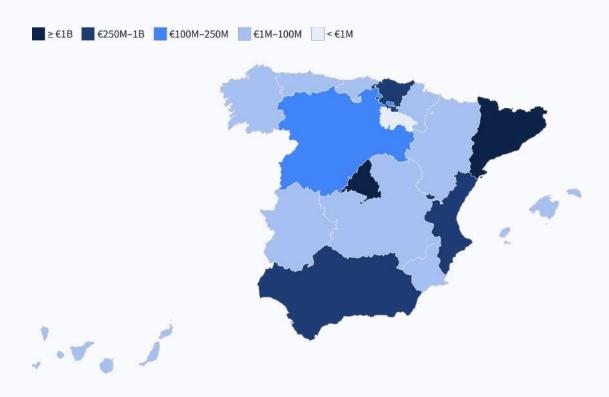
At early stage, VC investment has been outpacing Europe average in recent years.

# Spain early stage VC investment growth vs European average 2013 indexed to 100



# Spanish entrepreneurship is increasingly distributed throughout the country. Investment is growing faster in smaller regions.

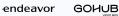
















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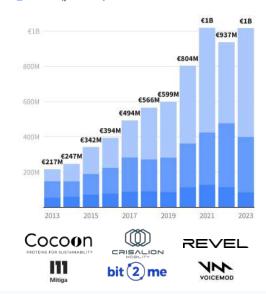
Spanish startups raised €2.2B in 2023 (across 850+ funding rounds).

#### VC investment into Spanish startups, annually » View top rounds



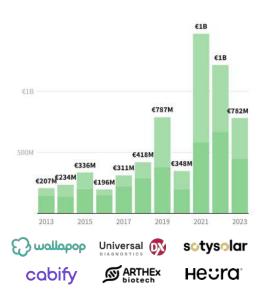
#### **Early-stage investment is** at an all time high.

- €4-15m (series A) €1-4m (seed)
- €0-1m (pre-seed)



#### **Breakout stage remains** strong.

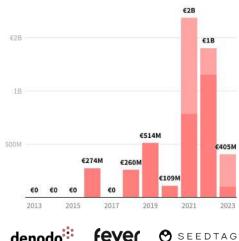
- €40-100m (series C)
- €15-40m (series B)



#### Late stage was quiet: only 2 megarounds, Denodo **Technology and Fever.**

€100-250m

€250m+























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# "The evolution of the Spanish tech ecosystem in the past 10 years has been tremendous.

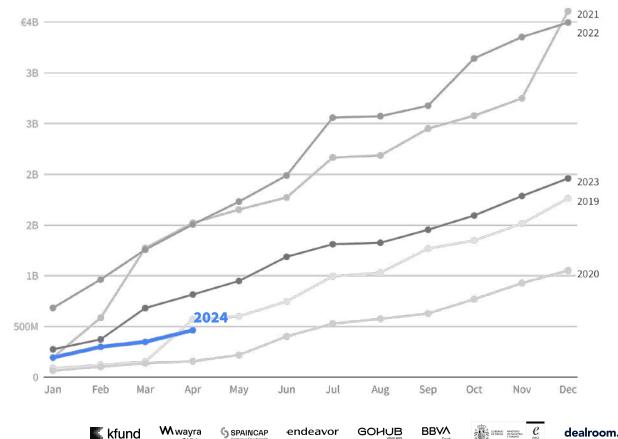
Last year, as in many other geographies, overall investment volume was down, but one positive sign is that early stage activity (pre-seed to Series A) remains very healthy. We're very confident that several companies being funded now will become scaleups in the next 5 to 10 years."

Jaime Novoa
Partner @ Kfund



In Q1 2024, **Spanish VC** investment is tracking above 2019 and 2020.

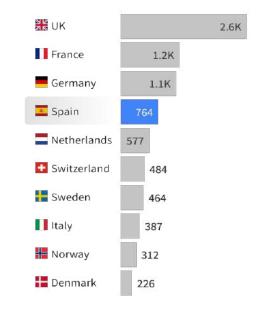
#### Spain VC investment by month (2019 – 2024)



#### **#7 by VC investment in** 2023



#### #4 by number of rounds in 2023



#### #4 by early stage VC investment in 2023











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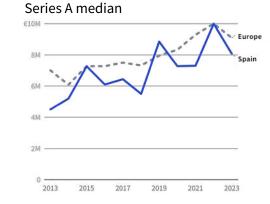


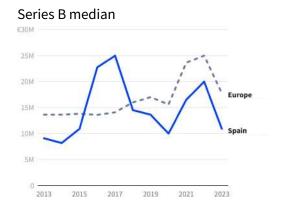


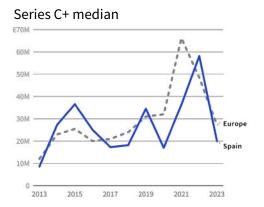
Median early-stage round sizes have remained largely on the upward trend line.

Late-stage rounds sizes have come down significantly from peak, particularly at Series C+.

# Seed median Europe 1.8M Spain 1.4M







2015

2013

2017





2023

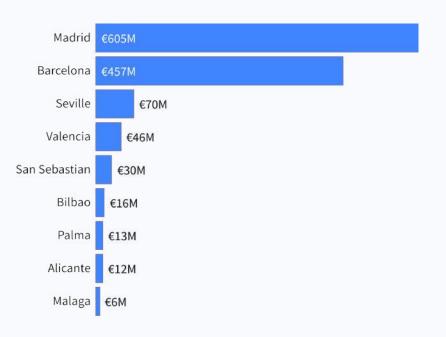




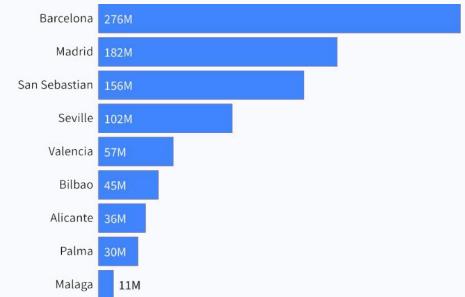


#### Top Spanish cities by VC investment raised.

VC investment into Spanish cities, 2023



VC investment into Spanish cities per m. inhabitants, 2023











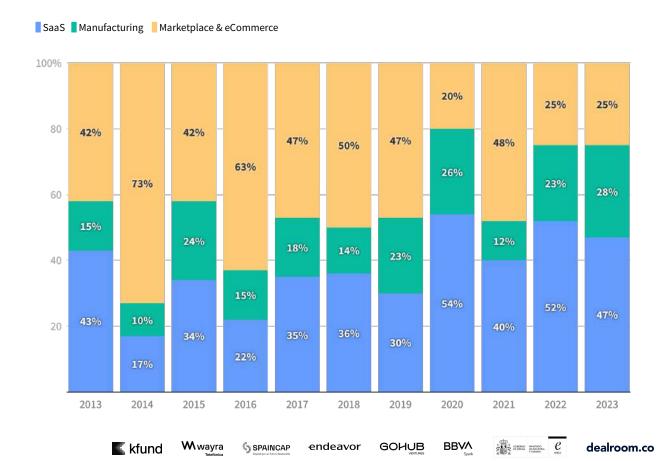




SaaS overtook Marketplaces in 2023, as part of a broader trend.

Share of Manufacturing VC investment is at a record high.

#### Spain VC investment by business model



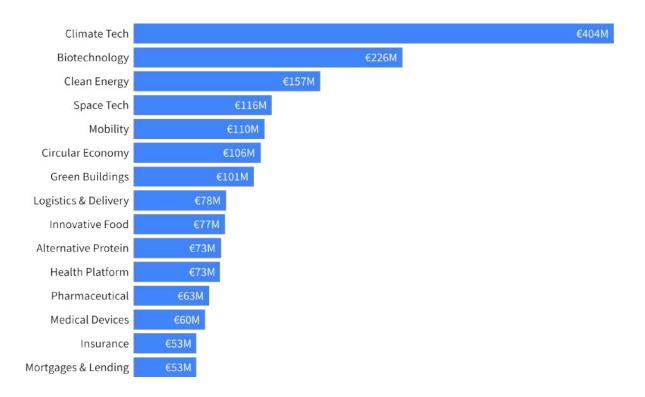


"Data shows a strong support for the SaaS model in the Spanish tech sector, evidenced by a 50% market consolidation in recent years.

This trend confirms the interest of both national and international funds in Spanish software startups, aligning with our investment thesis. As businesses continue to prioritize digital transformation, SaaS companies become essential in providing innovative tools that optimize operations, boost productivity, and automate processes."

**Top funded** frontier tech and enabling technology segments are mainly related to Climate or Health.

#### VC investment in Spanish startups in 2023, by top segments





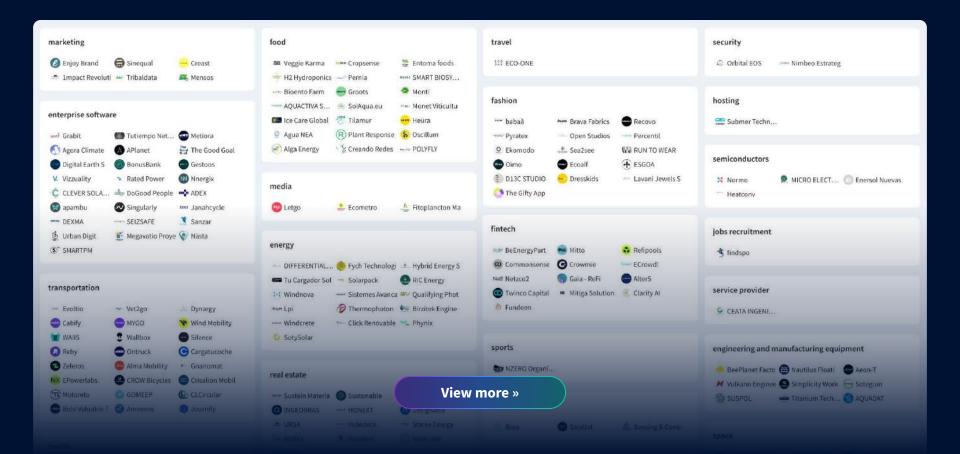






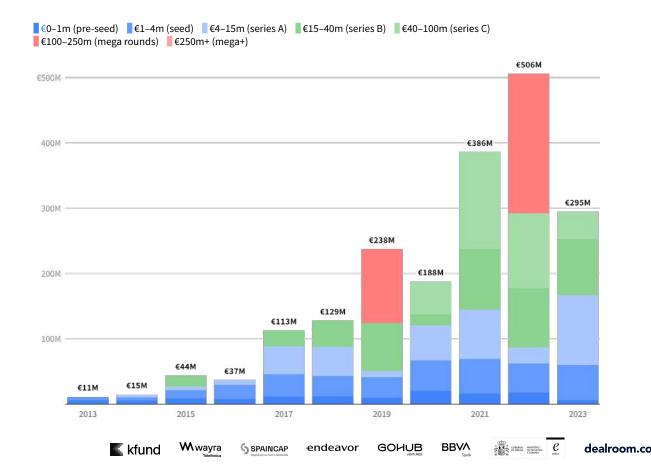


### **Spanish Climate tech startups**



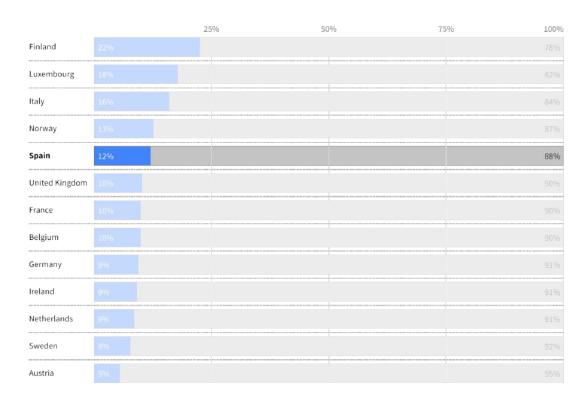
€1.6B was invested in into female-founded Spanish startups between 2019 and 2023.

#### VC investment into Female founded Spanish startups » View top rounds



12% of VC investment since 2019 was made into female-founded Spanish startups.

#### Female-founded as a percentage of total VC investment, 2019-2023















#### Some investors active in Spain in 2023.



#### **Rest of Europe** Quantum Capital Partners CORE Brighteye Ventures Outlier Ventures\* Shilling Supercharging √ ✓ JETS CAPITAL loeris\* OK VENTURE CAPITAL







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Source:



Borja Cabezón

CEO @ ENISA - Empresa Nacional de Innovación

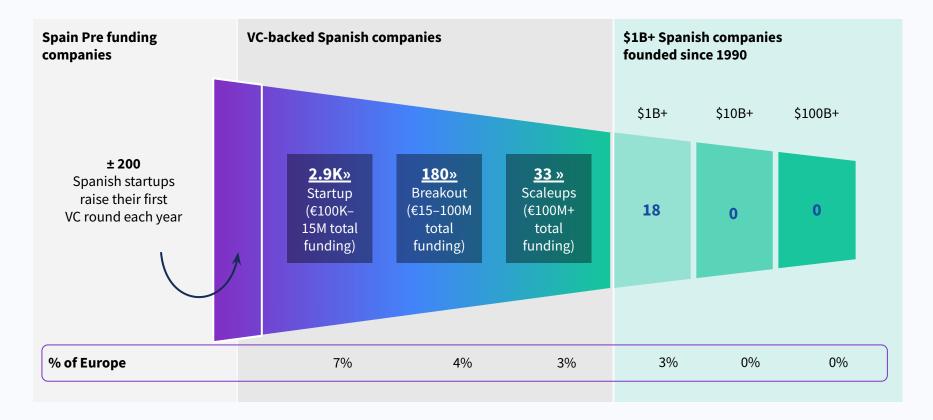


"The future of a country must be built by innovation. Spain is aware of this and nowadays, we use all kind of tools that allow us to be an increasing partner in the startups' ecosystem in Europe.

So, we demonstrate that public and private funding does not only work, but also generates a boosting economy and a better society. The direction being taken by ENISA is inexorably leading us to forge a progressively sustainable economic development."

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#### Spain is showing a promising funnel of startups, breakouts and scaleups.













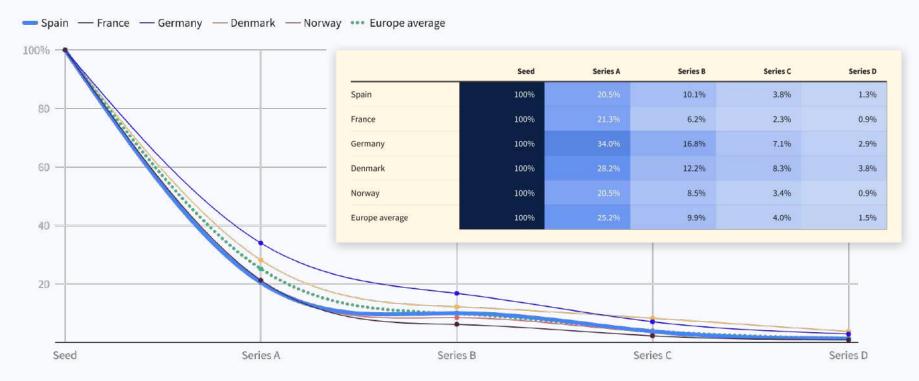


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Source:

#### Graduation rate of Spanish startups: below European average at Series A, similar at Series B+.

Graduation rate of startups founded between 2015 – 2020, from seed











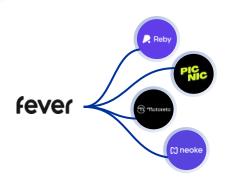


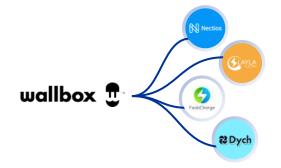


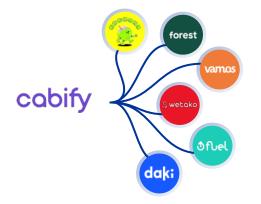
## **Success breeds success: Spanish unicorns have** produced dozens of alumni founders.























Linda Rottenberg
Cofounder & CEO @ Endeavor
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"A unicorn that doesn't breed even more unicorns is just an endangered species"









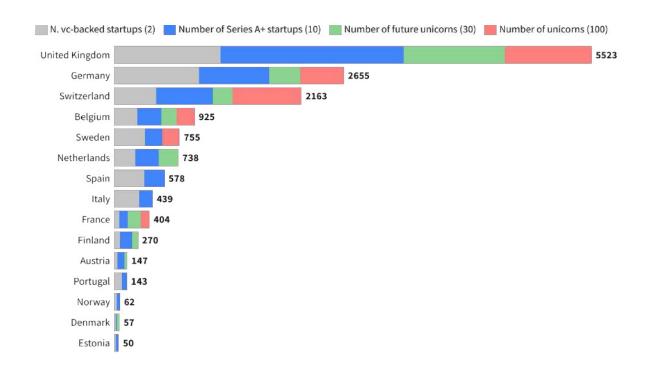


# Spain ranks 7th by university spinouts value created.

#### Source:

Dealroom.co Data as of 27 Nov 2023 University value creation is ranked by multiplying the number of startups at every stage of maturity for a score 2 for a VC-backed startup to 100 for a unicom. Spinouts policies vary from country to country. Countries like France and Sweden are hard to compare due to the professor privilege model, where universities have no stake in any research innovation coming out of the activities carried out there. The definition of spinouts and their comparison with other countries like UK, Germany and Switzerland is therefore challenging. Some universities such as KTH collaborated in sharing detailed data for a fair comparison. The ranking might evolve with better involvement of more universities.

#### European countries by spinout value created



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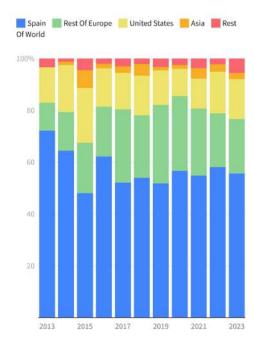




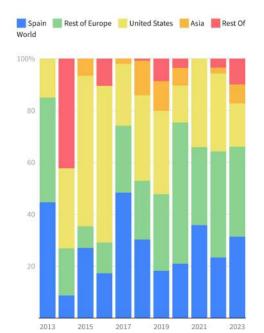




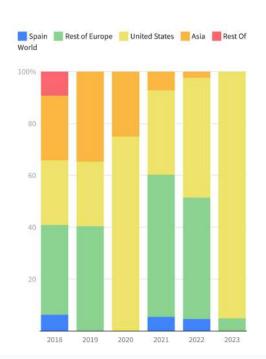
#### **Spanish investors are** most active at early stage.



#### **Breakout stage switched** from US to non-Spanish **European investors.**



#### Late stage increasingly funded by the US.









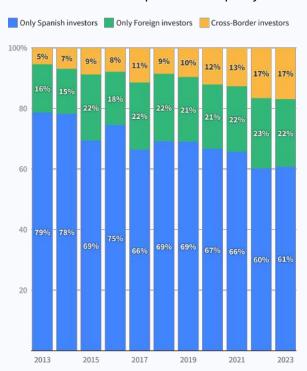




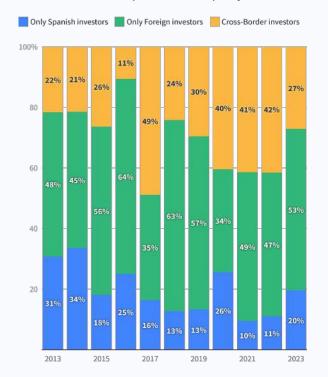


# Foreign investors still contribute to most VC investment raised, though the participation of cross-border investors (Spanish and foreign investors investing in the same round) is rising.

Number of rounds in Spanish startups by location of investors



VC investment in Spanish startups by location of investors











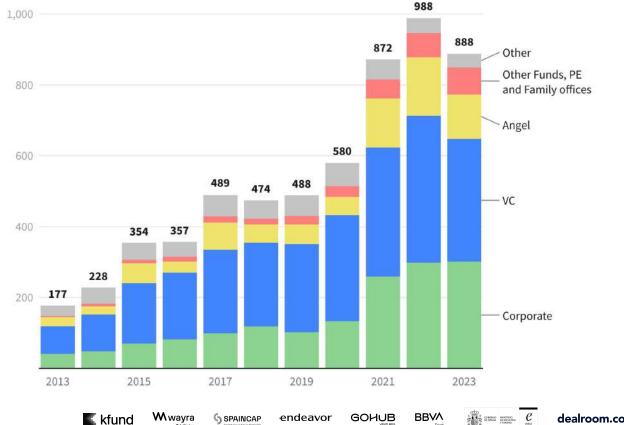




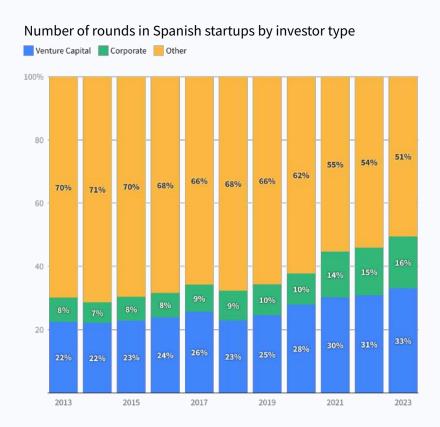
Number of unique investors has increased dramatically since 2019.

Number of **Corporates** investors reached a record in 2023.

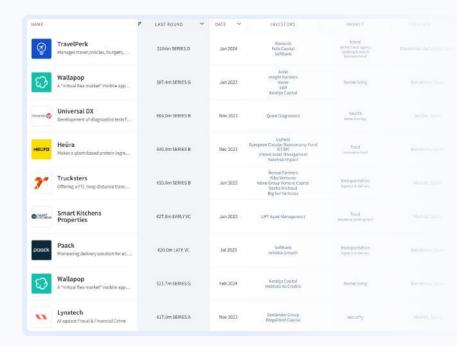
#### Number of unique investors into Spanish startups



#### Share of Corporate participation is at an all time high.



240+ funding rounds with Corporate or CVC participation since 2023 » View online







**W** wayra









**Fintech** 

€250M

Jan 2024

**Transportation** 

REVEL

nebeus

Selected Debt and Lending Capital rounds since 2023

Fintech

ID FINANCE

\$150M

Feb 2024

**Jobs Recruitment** 

factorial

\$80M

Apr 2024

**Energy** 

zunder

€40M

Feb 2023



Fintech

capchase

€105M May 2024

**Fintech** 

€68M

Oct 2023

**Transportation** 

SKYDWELLER

€30M

**ALTER 5** 

playing a more prominent role alongside traditional venture capital investment. » view more



€50M Oct 2023 **W** wayra **k**fund

SPAINCAP

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**Debt financing is** 

€100M Sep 2023

Fintech

GOHUB

BBV/\

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# "Banks must play a key role in unlocking the growth potential of fast-growing companies.

Since the launch of BBVA Spark in 2022, we have worked with more than 1,000 companies in 4 countries and granted loans worth more than 300 million euros."

Roberto Albaladejo Head of BBVA Spark

BBVA

# **Open-access data platform for** the Spanish tech ecosystem.

-

SPAIN

€3.0b

Accessible to Plataforma ONE registered users to provide data transparency, learn about the ecosystem, KPI measurement and promote startups.

Explore now »

Spain ecosystem platform

Initiated by red.es ID dealroom.co

## Plataforma ONC

Meeting point for Spanish entrepreneurs, startups and ecosystem players.

Register to access »



Spain Up

010

#### Methodology.

#### What is a startup?

Companies designed to grow fast. Generally, such companies are VC-investable businesses.

When startups are successful, they develop into scaleups (>50 people), grownups (>500 people) and result in big companies. Only companies founded since 1990 are included in this report.

Blog post: What is a Startup?

#### What is a unicorn?

Unicorns are (former) startups that reached US\$ 1B valuation or exit at one point in time.

Blog post: What is a Unicorn?

#### **Underlying Data**

Dealroom's proprietary database and software aggregate data from multiple sources: harvesting public information, user-submitted data verified by Dealroom, data engineering. All data is verified and curated with an extensive manual process.

The data on which this report builds is available via <a href="mailto:app.dealroom.co">app.dealroom.co</a>. For more info please visit dealroom.co or contact <a href="mailto:support@dealroom.co">support@dealroom.co</a>. Data for this report was taken in March 2024.

#### **Venture Capital, Investors**

Investment are referred to by their round labels such as Seed, Series A, B, C, ... late stage, and growth equity. VC investments exclude debt, non-equity funding, lending capital and grants.

#### **Regional Breakdown**

While many startups founded in Spain relocate beyond their borders, most maintain business-critical ties to their homelands.

In order to take this reality into account, the first chapter of this report includes both Spain-based startups, which maintain their main center of business (HQ) in their country of origin, and Spain-founded startups, which relocated their HO outside of Spain.









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#### What is a female-founded startup?

A female-founded startup is defined by the identification of at least one woman self-identifying as a founder or co-founder, typically sourced from legal filings, websites, social media, and media coverage.

While the majority of founders hold influential positions such as CEO or CTO/CSO, not all (co-)founders need to be actively involved in the startup's operations

Deep dive: Women-founded startups in Europe

#### What is a Climate tech startup?

Climate tech includes startups working on innovative technologies solutions designed to address climate change and its environmental effects. This can be done by reducing GHG emissions or adapting our systems to environmental changes.

Within the broad spectrum of climate tech, we find different types of technology, such as hardware, software, API, IoT, and biotech. Climate applications span a wide set of industries and sectors.

Deep dive: Climate tech















#### Tech ecosystem intelligence

Dealroom.co is a global intelligence platform for discovering and tracking the most promising companies, technologies and ecosystems. Clients include many of the world's foremost organizations such as Sequoia, Accel, Index Ventures, McKinsey, BCG, Deloitte, Google, AWS, Microsoft, Stripe.

Dealroom partners closely with local tech ecosystem development agencies and enablers, to create a comprehensive multi-dimensional blueprint of the tech ecosystem, including capital, talent, innovation, entrepreneurship and overall economic dynamism.



## Leading early stage fund in Southern Europe and LatAm

Kfund is a multi-stage, multi-product fund family that supports entrepreneurs in Southern Europe and Latin America. With over €500 million in assets, the fund invests from the pre-seed stage to Series B, offering checks ranging from €100,000 to €15 million.



# Helps innovative and technological companies grow

BBVA Spark is BBVA's comprehensive proposal of financial services to support innovative companies in their different growth stages.

Spark allows these companies to cover all their financial needs in one place, as well as provides them with sophisticated financing products such as venture debt or growth loans.

To do this, BBVA Spark offers a differential relationship model with a team of specialists who speak the same language of high growth companies.

#### endeavor

#### Leading global community of, by, and for High-Impact Entrepreneurs

Today, Endeavor's network spans more than 40 countries and supports more than 2,500 entrepreneurs, whose companies generate combined revenues of over \$50B, have created more than 4.1M jobs, and, in 2022, raised over \$60B in equity capital.

Endeavor's unique entrepreneur-first model and network of trust provide a platform for founders to dream big, scale fast, and pay it forward to the next generation of entrepreneurs..



# Early-stage VC investing in B2B SaaS founders

GoHub Ventures is an early-stage venture capital fund investing in founders with highly technological B2B software solutions, from Seed to Series A across Europe, North America, and Latam.

Backed by 90 million euros distributed in two different funds, GoHub Ventures invests in differentiated solutions that help optimize and automate cross-cutting processes for any type of industry. Its portfolio, consisting of 28 startups, includes companies from the United States, the United Kingdom, Argentina, Chile, Colombia, and Spain.



# Telefónica's Corporate Venture Capital and its Open Innovation platform

Wayra covers direct investments in startups in seed and growth stages (€50k to €5M), with the capacity to generate business with Telefónica; indirect investments as LP in +10 strategic funds in key markets such as the US and Israel; and investments as CVC as a Service for Telefónica Group companies.

Since 2011, Wayra has invested €233M in +1,100 startups and currently has +530 startups in its portfolio, of which +190 work with Telefónica

With teams operating in 9 countries, Wayra provides innovation services and opens its innovation platforms (Alaian and Open Future) to third parties.



#### Brings together Venture Capital & Private Equity firms in Spain

SPAINCAP is the association that brings together Venture Capital & Private Equity firms in Spain, as well as their investors, including insurance companies and pension funds. The members of SPAINCAP make mid- to long-term investments in unlisted companies, from start ups to consolidated companies, providing not only stable financing through equity, but also innovation and management support.

The Association's mission is to connect the players in the industry in Spain, representing their interests before the Government, media and public opinion, both nationally and internationally, through alliances and synergies in Europe and Latin America.



# Leading public institution supporting entrepreneurship

ENISA is a State-owned company that belongs to the Ministry of Industry and Tourism, whose mission is to help viable and innovative projects, driven by entrepreneurs or small and medium-sized Spanish companies, to find the necessary financing to develop and compete in a global market.

This financial boost takes the form of participative loans of between 25,000 and 1,5 million euros. It is a financing alternative that is particularly suited to the needs of SMEs and requires no collateral or guarantee other than a solid business project and the professional solvency of its management team. Since 2022 ENISA has taken on the role of certifying entity for start-ups wishing to take advantage of the fiscal and social benefits of the so-called Startups Law, a pioneering legislation in Europe that creates a favorable legal environment for the growth and success of start-ups. Also it is involved in authorizing the residence of foreign entrepreneurs.

At year-end of 2023 ENISA has granted 8,685 loans to 7,580 companies, for a total amount of more than 1.332 million euros invested.







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