

Christian Rangen, MBA

Strategy, Transformation, Ecosystems & Innovation Clusters



Chris is a globally recognized expert in strategy, transformation, ecosystems and Innovation Superclusters. He works with top management and board on large-scale strategy & transformation programs, and investors, international finance institutions, governments, national innovation agencies, ecosystems and scale ups to raise funding and scale successful companies.

Over the past decade, he has worked on large-scale projects in Asia, Americas, Europe and the Nordics. His clients include governments, economic development agencies, innovation clusters, venture capital firms, family offices, startups, accelerators, and corporates. He has extensive experience working across new growth industries, from solar energy, autonomous mobility, software-as-a-service, aquaculture, EV and electric mobility.

Chris has helped build out a wide range of new strategic initiatives, ranging from national competitiveness, Innovation Superclusters, venture capital programs and corporate transformation. He recently launched the 100% digital program, Scale Up Coach, training 1000's of people in how to better support and accelerate new startups and scale ups around the world. His recent work is developing the Fund Manager! Simulation & toolkit, available in closed beta to selected development finance organizations.

EXPERTISE

- Innovation clusters
- Strategy & innovation
- Entrepreneurial finance
- National transformation
- Ecosystem development
- Corporate transformation
- Venture capital (seed to growth)
- Startups & scale up development

EDUCATION

MBA, Strategy & Entrepreneurship
Copenhagen Business School (2009-2010)

BSc, Political Science
University of Oslo (2002)

BSc, Marketing
BI – Norwegian Business School (2002)

EMPLOYMENT BACKGROUND

March 2011 – Present
Partner, CEO
Engage // Innovate
Strategy & innovation consulting company

May 2018 – Present
Founder, CEO
Strategy Tools

March 2011 – present
Faculty,
Numerous business Schools

PROJECT EXPERIENCE

Strategic Advisor to 2X global initiative

Developing global program for 100+ emerging gender-smart fund managers, including raising \$200M to execute on the global project.

Strategic Advisor to The European Bank for Reconstruction and Development (EBRD)

Developing next generation accelerator programs in Europe, financed by the EBRD.

Startup development

Coaching and mentoring startups in Albania on early-stage growth and venture financing.

Innovation Clusters

Strategic Advisor to the Norwegian Government's National Cluster Program

Four-year contract to reinvent the national cluster strategy. Widely recognized as one of the world's leading national cluster programs

Strategic Advisor to the US Government

Advising the ICAP – Washington State Innovation Cluster Acceleration Program, a brand-new program launching Q2 2021.

Strategic Advisor to the Canadian Government

Expert advisor on the development of Canada's National Supercluster Initiative, a \$1BN initiative to accelerate Canada's economic development

Developed the business plan and early strategy for Canada's COAST Cluster & Hub initiative in 2020-2021.

Strategic Advisor to the Malaysian Government

National transformation 2050 project and Malaysia's Innovation Supercluster initiative

Strategic Advisor to the Government of Finland

Developing Finland's national innovation cluster program.

Strategic Advisor to the Government of Oman

National transformation plan and development of the national Supercluster initiative

Strategic Advisor to India's New Innovation Supercluster Initiative

Supporting the development of a new cluster paradigm around high-tech industries in India.

Strategic Advisor to various Mexican cluster initiatives

Supporting the development of next generation Mexican state-wide cluster programs

Strategic Advisor to over 250 Innovation Clusters in over 50 countries.

Including clusters in the ocean economy, energy, life sciences, smart health, aquaculture, mobility, fishery, tourism, clean maritime, offshore wind energy, and more.

Has worked on multiple life sciences, health, digital health related cluster strategies.

Christian Rangen, MBA

Global Entrepreneurship Expert

Developed strategy, financing, governance, organization, leadership and teams across these clusters.

Cluster Accelerator Program

Domain expert in the world's first Cluster Accelerator Program hosted for Europe's clean energy cluster managers.

Including Zaptec (EV mobility), SolarDuck (solar energy), Fishency Innovation (AI, subsea cameras, aquaculture) and more.

Mentored, supported, advised 350+ startups

From India, Iceland, Costa Rica, Norway, US, France, UK, Israel and more.

Innovation Hubs

Strategic Advisor to the Indian-Swiss-based Steiner AG

Development of Innovation Park Zurich. Significant economic development for Switzerland, counting 40,000 new jobs over the project lifetime. Innovation Park Zurich was the largest innovation hub development project in Switzerland, in rebuilding a former military airfield

Founder, Investor in one of the largest co-working spaces and innovation hubs in the Nordics

Founder, investor, X2 Innovation Center

Norway's first privately funded national innovation center

Corporate Strategy & Innovation

Delivered more than 50 corporate strategy & transformation projects, including:

FMCG

Energy

Subsea Robotics

Offshore aquaculture

Professional services

Technology

Smart mobility

Autonomous mobility ecosystems

Aviation ecosystems

Founded and built the X2 Corporate Accelerator with multiple programs for the ocean economy and smart city

Startups

Active investor and board member with multiple startups

Accelerators

Founded and built the Nordic X2 Labs – a startup factory accelerator

Notable programs included Smart City and the Blue Revolution – the future of aquaculture

Strategic advisor to leading accelerators

Including NHack, Katapult Ocean Accelerator and Hatch – the world's leading aquaculture accelerator

Regularly run Accelerator Programs and modules, spanning from 1-day to 30-day delivery formats. Most programs focus on "Investor Readiness", "Scale Up Capital" and "Your Long-Term Capital Strategy"

Run multiple train-the-trainer programs for accelerator staff and management

Venture Capital

Co-Founder, investor and Chairman of the Board to Link Venture Capital

Link has raised LP funding and invested in 40+ startups. Currently raising fund number three. Link has four IPOs with another four IPOs in the pipeline.

Strategic Advisor to 2X Challenge

Developing global program to deliver Training & financing for 100+ emerging fund managers, securing \$200M funding for emerging fund managers

Advisor to family offices for investments into tech startups

Advisor to the Norwegian government on scale up ecosystems and financing

Strategic advisor to CONNECT BAN – Bergen Business Angel Network.

Developing a globally scalable venture training program for business angel

Christian Rangen, MBA

Global Entrepreneurship Expert

IPO's

Zaptec EV-charging company. Went public on Euronext Growth (growth exchange), Oslo, October 2020.

Solar energy company

In process for going public 2022, Oslo,

Author

Innovation Superclusters – a playbook for economic growth (forthcoming)

Cluster Business Models (2021)

Building the Transformational Company (2020)

Building Innovation Superclusters (2019)

Building Switzerland's Innovation Superclusters (2018)

The Shifting Energy Arena (2018, 2020, 2022 forthcoming)

Malaysian Innovation Superclusters (2017)

Expert Development

Thinkers 50 Strategy

Nominated for the Thinkers 50 Strategy Award in 2021

Developed and run the world's number #1 digital cluster development program, Global Cluster Leadership Program.

Participants from 60+ countries. 100% digital

Developed 250+ new tools and methodologies for developing innovation clusters, ecosystems

Run Train-the-Trainer programs for national governments, national innovation agencies and global ecosystem builders in these methodologies for cluster- and ecosystem development

Active keynote speaker on innovation clusters, Superclusters and innovative ecosystems.

Transform!

Developed the world's leading strategy simulation for strategy, innovation & transformation. Available in-person & 100% digital. Used by leading business schools globally.

Scale Up!

Developed the world's premier scale up simulation. Available in-person & 100% digital. Used by governments, accelerators, business schools worldwide.

Scale Up X!

Developed the gender-smart simulation to empower more female entrepreneurs, in collaboration with MIT D-Lab. Available in-person & 100% digital. Used by accelerators, business schools in the US and emerging markets.

Supercluster!

Developed the world's first strategy simulation for Innovation Clusters and Superclusters. Available in-person & 100% digital. Used by national cluster programs.

Fund Manager!

Developing the world's first strategy simulation for emerging fund managers. Teaching first-time fund managers and prospective fund managers how to design and deliver different strategies for investment funds.

Academic work

Various positions and guest lecture roles at multiple business schools across Europe and the US. Has designed and taught a wide range of programs across strategy, strategic management, transformation, venture financing, entrepreneurship and innovation.

BI – Norwegian Business school (No)

Duke University (US)

Northeastern (US)

IE (Spain), E-Zigurat (Spain)

FHV Vorarlberg (Austria)

CBS– Copenhagen Business School (DK)

Akademia (Iceland)

NHH (Norway)