hapaSpace
CONNECT • GROW • CONTRIBUTE

ANNUAL REPORT

2024

Prepared By
Maxwell Amponsah

The 2024 Annual Report highlights HapaSpace's impact in entrepreneurship, digital transformation, and ecosystem development. Through key initiatives like YIC, R4DAC, UNVEIL, and ACTIVATE, we have empowered startups, MSMEs, and innovators. This report outlines our achievements, challenges, and strategic direction for continued growth in 2025 and beyond.

+233 59 876 4693   www.hapaspace.com

Executive Summary

The year 2024 has been a pivotal period for HapaSpace, marked by significant advancements in technology-driven innovation, entrepreneurship, and digital transformation across Ghana. As a leading innovation hub, HapaSpace has played a critical role in equipping entrepreneurs, startups, and MSMEs with essential digital skills, business mentorship, and access to strategic partnerships. These initiatives have contributed to strengthening the regional innovation ecosystem and fostering inclusive participation, particularly for women and persons with disabilities (PWDs).

Throughout the year, HapaSpace successfully implemented several key programs, including the Youth Innovation Circles (YIC), the Radio for Digital Adoption Campaign (R4DAC), and the SEADE Learning Expedition. These initiatives directly impacted 888 innovators, over 1,200 MSMEs, and multiple digital makerspaces, providing entrepreneurs with critical resources for business growth, digital adoption, and market integration. The expansion of makerspaces and capacity-building workshops further enhanced the ability of innovators to develop prototypes and scale their enterprises.

While these achievements have strengthened Ghana's entrepreneurial landscape, challenges such as resource constraints and startup engagement barriers persisted. However, HapaSpace leveraged strategic collaborations with MasterCard Foundation, GIZ, UNDP, Otumfuo's Palace, the World Bank Group, NEIP, Ghana Hubs Network, and academic institutions to sustain and expand its impact. These partnerships provided funding opportunities, ecosystem linkages, and policy engagement to support emerging entrepreneurs.

Looking ahead to 2025, HapaSpace is committed to scaling its existing initiatives while introducing new strategic programs. The expansion of YIC and R4DAC 2.0 will continue to build on past successes, while new initiatives such as ACTIVATE and UNVEIL will focus on agriculture technical training, research commercialization, and inclusive innovation. The Tech in Ghana Conference – Kumasi Edition will further establish the region as a hub for digital transformation and entrepreneurship.

This report provides a comprehensive analysis of HapaSpace's achievements, challenges, lessons learned, and future directions. By strengthening its innovation programs, expanding its mentorship networks, and deepening ecosystem collaborations, HapaSpace remains dedicated to advancing entrepreneurship, digital inclusion, and economic empowerment in Ghana.

Project Overview

Youth Innovation Circles (YIC)

A flagship initiative designed to empower young entrepreneurs through mentorship, capacity-building workshops, makerspaces, and startup acceleration activities. In 2024, YIC supported 888 innovators, ensuring 55.63% women participation and a notable inclusion of Persons with Disabilities (PWDs).

Core Activities:

- **Mentorship Sessions** – Connecting innovators with **industry professionals** for business development guidance.
- **Capacity-Building Workshops** – Providing hands-on training in **digital skills, entrepreneurship, and innovation**.
- **Pitch Nights** – Offering a platform for young entrepreneurs to **showcase their ventures and attract funding**.
- **Makerspaces** – Equipping participants with access to **digital fabrication tools, 3D printing, and electronics** for prototype development.

Impact Highlights:

✔ **70% of participants reported improved business knowledge and skills**.
✔ **35% secured funding or business partnerships post-program**.
✔ **Three fully operational makerspaces** established in **Ashanti, Bono, and Western regions**.

Partners/Sponsors: MasterCard Foundation, UNDP, Duapa Werkspace, Kumasi City Incubation Hub, Agrico Hub, PHG, InnovatorsUP.
Timeline: Ongoing throughout **2024**, with **expansion plans for 2025 into additional regions**.

Radio for Digital Adoption Campaign (R4DAC)

A transformative initiative designed to enhance digital literacy and technology adoption among MSMEs, particularly women-led businesses. This program leveraged radio and peer-learning as accessible tools to bridge the digital divide and help businesses integrate digital solutions.

Phase 1 (2024) Achievements:

✔ **1,000+ MSMEs impacted**, with **over 400 directly engaged** in digital skills training.
✔ **Regular radio sessions** reached **100+ participants per broadcast** across various locations.
✔ Conducted **peer-learning workshops**, covering:

- **Digital Marketing & E-Commerce** – Helping businesses **increase online visibility and customer engagement**.
- **Mobile Financial Services & Cashless Payments** – Enabling businesses to **embrace digital transactions**.

- **Cybersecurity & Digital Fraud Prevention** – Addressing **concerns over mobile money security**.

Impact Highlights:

✔ **45% of beneficiaries integrated digital tools into their business models**.
✔ **Increased online visibility and revenue** for participating businesses.

Partners/Sponsors: GIZ, DTEG, HapaSpace, Ghana Enterprises Agency.
Timeline: Phase 1 completed in 2024, with **Phase 2 planned for 2025**, targeting an **additional 600 MSMEs**.

UNIHUBS Project

The UNIHUBS Project is dedicated to strengthening digital innovation hubs (DIHs) and higher education institutions (HEIs) through research-driven insights and policy recommendations. It aims to bridge the gap between academia and innovation ecosystems, fostering a thriving digital entrepreneurship landscape across Ghana, Kenya, and Tanzania.

Key Activities in 2024:

✔ **8 Focus Group Discussions** with **69 key stakeholders**, including HEI representatives, DIH managers, and policymakers.
✔ **Data-Driven Insights** – Research on **digital skills gaps, industry collaboration challenges, and curriculum deficiencies**.
✔ **Policy Recommendations** – Developing **strategic frameworks** to enhance **innovation hubs and university-industry linkages**.

Impact Highlights:

✔ Strengthened collaboration between **African universities and innovation hubs**.
✔ Provided **actionable recommendations** for **policymakers and ecosystem enablers**.

Partners/Sponsors: Regional policymakers, innovation hubs, and academic institutions across Africa.
Timeline: Research phase completed in 2024, with **ongoing policy engagement and implementation efforts**.

SEADE Project

A knowledge-sharing and learning expedition initiative designed to facilitate collaboration between researchers and innovators. The program leverages the Enrich in Africa platform to support commercialization and market integration of research-driven innovations.

Key Components:

✔ **4 Country-Specific Webinars** – Engaging **149 R&I stakeholders** across **Ghana, Kenya, Senegal, and South Africa**.
✔ **Learning Expeditions (LEX)** – Facilitated hands-on **market exposure & industry networking**.
✔ **Soft-Landing Programs** – Provided structured **market-entry pathways** for African startups.

Impact Highlights:

✔ **Enabled researchers to secure mentorship, funding, and market-entry opportunities**.
✔ **Strengthened Africa-Europe research collaborations** in innovation.

Partners/Sponsors: Enrich in Africa, European research institutions, African innovation hubs.
Timeline: 2024 activities completed, with **additional learning expeditions planned for 2025**.

Thrive Acceleration Program 2023-2024

A **startup acceleration initiative** aimed at **scaling early-stage businesses** through **mentorship, investor readiness, and market access**.

Key Achievements:

✔ **Supported 20 startups** with tailored acceleration services.
✔ **10 startups secured access to markets**, enabling them to scale operations.
✔ Focused on **business development, technical assistance, and funding connections**.

Partners: National Entrepreneurship & Innovation Programme (NEIP).
Funded by: The World Bank Group.
Timeline: August 2023 – April 2024.

Women in Timber – Digital Tools Micro-Coaching & Mentorship (Digital Champions Project)

An empowerment initiative supporting women-led MSMEs in the timber industry with practical digital skills to enhance business efficiency and competitiveness.

Key Activities & Interventions:

✔ **Needs Assessment** – Stakeholder engagement with the **Women in Timber Ghana Association (WiTG)** to assess **digital literacy gaps**.
✔ **Training Modules:**

- **Social Media Marketing & Digital Security**
- **WhatsApp for Business & E-Commerce**
- **Timber & Log Assessment Training** for industry-specific knowledge.
  ✔ **One-on-One Digital Mentoring & Coaching** – Supporting business owners in adopting **digital finance and digital marketing strategies**.

Impact Highlights:

✔ **10 women-led MSMEs trained**, improving their **digital capabilities**.
✔ **Three Digital Champions selected** to **train 30 additional women** in the sector.

Partners/Sponsors: GIZ Digital Transformation for Sustainable Development (DTEG).
Timeline: 2024 pilot completed, with **expansion planned for 2025**.

DTEG Stakeholder Engagement

In collaboration with **GIZ Ghana**, HapaSpace hosted the **DTEG Stakeholder Workshop in Kumasi** on **16th August 2024**. The workshop brought together **55 participants**, including representatives from:
✔ **MSMEs**
✔ **Civil Society Organizations (CSOs)**
✔ **Government institutions**
✔ **Innovation Hubs**

Key Discussion Points:

✔ **AI & Digital Transformation** – Exploring **AI's role in business and innovation**.
✔ **Entrepreneurial Inclusion** – Promoting **strategies for women and youth participation in tech**.
✔ **Public-Private Partnerships** – Strengthening **collaborations for digital economic growth**.

Impact Highlights:

✔ **Increased awareness of AI applications for MSMEs and startups**.
✔ **Strengthened stakeholder networks** for future digital economy initiatives.

Partners/Sponsors: GIZ, Ghana Enterprises Agency, Civil Society Organizations, MSMEs, Innovation Hubs.
Timeline: Phase II launched in 2024, with **continued stakeholder engagements planned for 2025**.

Key Achievements

Projects and Initiatives

1. Youth Innovation Circles (YIC) – Empowering Young Innovators

- **Engaged 888 innovators** across **Ashanti, Bono, Western, and Ahafo regions**, promoting entrepreneurship and innovation.
- Ensured **inclusivity**, with **55.63% women participation** and a **dedicated 13-person cohort for Persons with Disabilities (PWDs)**.
- Conducted:

- ○ **750 mentorship sessions** and **7 capacity-building workshops**.
- ○ **24 information sessions** introducing young innovators to market-driven opportunities.
- ○ **11 peer-learning sessions** fostering collaboration and knowledge exchange.
- ○ **3 pitch days and 3 awards ceremonies**, recognizing outstanding ventures.
- **Established 3 fully operational makerspaces** equipped with **3D printing, digital fabrication tools, and electronics labs**.
- **35% of participants secured funding or business partnerships**, contributing to job creation and economic growth.

✔ **Impact:** Strengthened Ghana's regional innovation ecosystem by fostering **entrepreneurial resilience and access to business acceleration opportunities**.

2. Radio for Digital Adoption Campaign (R4DAC) – Digitalizing MSMEs

- **1,000+ MSMEs trained**, focusing on **women-led businesses** in digital literacy, e-commerce, and financial inclusion.
- **400+ MSMEs directly engaged** through targeted training sessions and peer-learning workshops.
- Delivered **radio and live-streamed sessions** with **100+ participants per broadcast**, expanding reach beyond urban centers.
- Key focus areas:
  - ○ **Digital Marketing & E-Commerce** – Helping businesses **increase online visibility and customer engagement**.
  - ○ **Mobile Financial Services & Cashless Transactions** – Encouraging businesses to embrace **digital payment solutions**.
  - ○ **Cybersecurity & Fraud Prevention** – Addressing MSME concerns about **mobile money fraud risks**.
- **66% of participants reported increased confidence in digital tool adoption**, strengthening financial inclusion.

✔ **Impact:** Enabled MSMEs to transition from traditional business models to **digital-first operations**, boosting **market reach, security, and efficiency**.

3. UNIHUBS Project – Strengthening HEI-DIH Collaboration in Africa

- Conducted **8 focus group discussions with 69 stakeholders**, including **40 HEI representatives and 29 DIH representatives** from **Ghana, Kenya, and Tanzania**.

- Identified **critical digital skills gaps**, particularly in **AI, data analytics, and software development**, missing from university curricula.
- Highlighted **collaboration challenges between universities and innovation hubs**, proposing stronger **policy frameworks and funding models**.
- Advocated for **formalized industry-academia partnerships**, integrating DIHs into university programs.
- **Impact:** Strengthened **policy recommendations** for integrating **innovation hubs into higher education** to **close the skills gap** in digital entrepreneurship.

✔ **Impact:** Positioned HapaSpace as a **regional leader in HEI-DIH collaboration**, influencing **digital innovation policy in Africa**.

4. SEADE Project – Strengthening EU-Africa Research & Innovation

- Delivered **4 country-specific webinars**, engaging **149 stakeholders** and introducing **473 registrants to commercialization pathways**.
- Hosted **Learning Expeditions (LEX) in Ghana, Kenya, Senegal, and South Africa**, connecting **entrepreneurs, researchers, and investors**.
- Provided **structured soft-landing opportunities** for African startups to scale into European markets.
- Facilitated **reverse pitching and e-pitching sessions**, resulting in **40+ collaborations between African innovators and EU stakeholders**.

✔ **Impact:** Supported **researchers and startups in accessing mentorship, funding, and market integration strategies**.

5. Thrive Acceleration Program – Supporting Early-Stage Startups

- **Supported 20 startups** with **business acceleration services**, including **mentorship, investor readiness training, and business development support**.
- **10 startups secured access to markets**, enabling them to scale operations.
- Provided **technical assistance and funding connections** to improve business models.

✔ **Impact:** Strengthened **early-stage startup ecosystems**, ensuring **scalable business models, increased market linkages, and improved investment readiness**.

6. Women in Timber – Digital Tools Micro-Coaching & Mentorship (Digital Champions Project)

- **Empowered 10 women-led MSMEs** in the timber industry with **digital skills training** in:
  - **Social Media Marketing & Digital Security**.
  - **WhatsApp for Business & E-Commerce Optimization**.
  - **Timber & Log Assessment for Industry-Specific Growth**.
- Conducted **one-on-one digital mentoring sessions**, supporting business owners in **adopting mobile money, digital marketing, and secure transactions**.
- Addressed **barriers to digital adoption**, including:
  - **Limited digital proficiency** → Introduced tailored, hands-on coaching.
  - **Low trust in mobile money** → Implemented fraud prevention awareness.
- **Three Digital Champions selected** to **train 30 additional women entrepreneurs**, ensuring sustainability.

✔ **Impact:** Increased **digital literacy in a traditionally underserved industry**, equipping **women entrepreneurs with tools for business expansion and resilience**.

7. GIZ DTEG Stakeholder Engagement – AI & Digital Economy Development

- Hosted **55 key stakeholders**, including representatives from **MSMEs, government agencies, innovation hubs, and academia**.
- **Key discussion areas:**
  - **AI's role in MSME growth** – Exploring AI applications in **agriculture, fintech, and MSME operations**.
  - **Gender-inclusive entrepreneurship** – Introducing the **Gender Inclusive Entrepreneurship Network (GIEN)**.
  - **Public-private partnerships** – Strengthening **cross-sector collaborations for digital ecosystem growth**.
- Addressed **barriers to digital adoption**, including:
  - **High data costs** → Advocated for **affordable internet access solutions**.
  - **Lack of startup funding** → Pushed for **tax breaks and incentives for early-stage tech ventures**.

✔ **Impact:** Strengthened **stakeholder collaborations**, ensuring **AI adoption, digital skills training, and policy advocacy for MSMEs**.

Overall Impact Summary – HapaSpace 2024

- **1,888+ entrepreneurs, MSMEs, and innovators impacted** through mentorship, acceleration, and digital training programs.
-**Strengthened Africa-Europe research & innovation collaborations**.
- **Established 3 new makerspaces**, expanding access to **prototyping and digital manufacturing tools**.
- **35% of YIC innovators secured funding or business partnerships**.
-**1,000+ women-led MSMEs trained in digital finance & e-commerce** through R4DAC.
-**40+ partnerships facilitated between African and European startups & investors** under SEADE.
-**Developed policy recommendations for HEI-DIH collaboration, AI adoption, and MSME digital transformation**.

HapaSpace's 2024 achievements demonstrate its pivotal role in advancing youth entrepreneurship, digital adoption, and research commercialization in Africa. Through strategic partnerships, targeted interventions, and policy engagements, HapaSpace is shaping the future of inclusive digital transformation in Ghana and beyond.

Community Engagement & Ecosystem Building

HapaSpace actively engaged its community in **collaborative events, networking meetups, and knowledge-sharing sessions**, strengthening connections within the **tech and entrepreneurship ecosystem**.

Key Activities:

✔ **HapaSpace Community Dinner Meetup** – A flagship event bringing together **entrepreneurs, tech innovators, and business leaders** to foster collaboration. The meetup featured:

- **Launch of the Trust Connect & Garage Sale App**, showcasing local digital innovations.
- **Panel discussions on critical societal issues** such as **illegal mining, youth unemployment, and sustainable entrepreneurship**.

✔ **Paint & Sip Networking Event** – A **creative and informal networking session** designed to facilitate connections between **entrepreneurs, professionals, and ecosystem enablers** in a relaxed environment.

✔ **Monthly Knowledge-Sharing Sessions** – Engaged **200+ entrepreneurs, professionals, and ecosystem players**, covering topics such as:

- **Digital transformation for startups**
- **AI in business & finance**
- **Women in leadership & entrepreneurship**
- **Access to funding & investment-readiness**

Partnerships & Collaborations

HapaSpace **leveraged strategic partnerships** with **global institutions, government agencies, academic institutions, and innovation networks** to drive **entrepreneurial growth, digital transformation, and youth empowerment**. These collaborations **unlocked funding opportunities, expanded reach, and strengthened Ghana's innovation ecosystem**.

Key Partnerships & Initiatives:

✔ **MasterCard Foundation & UNDP** – Strengthened collaborations through the **Young Africa Innovates (YAI) project**, providing **mentorship, funding access, and makerspace resources** to support **youth-led innovations** across Ghana.

✔ **The World Bank Group & NEIP (National Entrepreneurship & Innovation Programme)** – Supported **20 startups** through the **Thrive Acceleration Program**, providing **market access, investor readiness training, and business development support**.

✔ **European Union (EU)** – Partnered in **research commercialization and policy engagements**, supporting **digital innovation and entrepreneurship initiatives**.

✔ **GIZ (Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit)** – Partnered with HapaSpace on **multiple initiatives** to drive **digital transformation, MSME capacity building, and AI integration**:

- **Radio for Digital Adoption Campaign (R4DAC)** – Empowered **1,000+ women-led MSMEs** with **digital literacy, financial inclusion, and digital tool adoption**.
- **DTEG Stakeholder Engagement** – Hosted **55 ecosystem leaders** to discuss **AI adoption, digital entrepreneurship, and regulatory support for Ghanaian MSMEs**.

✔ **GFA Consulting Group** – Collaborated on the **Built Lite User-Testing Project**, conducting a **comprehensive baseline study** on digital platform usability, providing **technical recommendations for developers**.

✔ **Otumfuo's Palace** – Collaborated in planning the **Tech in Ghana Conference**, ensuring **high-level stakeholder engagement** and positioning **Kumasi as a tech and entrepreneurship hub**.

✔ **KNUST (Kwame Nkrumah University of Science & Technology) & KSTU (Kumasi Technical University)** – Engaged in **research, digital innovation training, and entrepreneurship capacity building**, particularly in **AI, fintech, and digital skills development**.

✔ **Ghana Hubs Network & Other Innovation Hubs** – Strengthened **cross-hub collaborations**, facilitating **knowledge-sharing, mentorship programs, and regional entrepreneurship growth**.

Challenges & Lessons Learned

While HapaSpace achieved significant impact in **2024**, several challenges emerged, affecting **program scalability, operational efficiency, and ecosystem engagement**. Addressing these challenges will be key

to **enhancing impact in 2025 and beyond**.

Challenges	Impact	Proposed Solutions
Resource Constraints	Limited funding restricted the ability to scale mentorship programs, outreach, and makerspace operations.	Strengthen engagement with investors, development agencies, and corporate partners to secure more funding for program expansion.
Team Productivity & Capacity Management	Execution delays and operational strain due to multiple ongoing projects and onboarding of new team members.	Implement structured onboarding and training programs to improve project execution efficiency.
Startup & Innovator Engagement	Inconsistent participation from startups in workshops and innovation programs, as founders struggled to balance business operations with learning.	Introduce exclusive perks for engaged participants, such as co-working credits, funding application support, and investor matchmaking opportunities.
Digital Adoption Barriers	Low trust in mobile money, digital payments, and online platforms slowed technology adoption among MSMEs.	Provide trust-building workshops and case studies to encourage MSMEs to adopt secure digital finance solutions and e-commerce strategies.
Infrastructure & Accessibility Issues	Lack of reliable internet access in rural areas made remote learning and digital training harder to scale.	Develop offline-first training modules and leverage community-based learning hubs to reach rural entrepreneurs with limited internet access.

1. **Lessons Learned**
2. ✔ **The Power of Strategic Partnerships – Collaborations with funding agencies, innovation hubs, and government institutions** are **crucial** for **scaling impact, securing resources, and overcoming financial and operational constraints**. Strengthening **multi-sector alliances** enhances sustainability.
3. ✔ **Optimized Team Onboarding & Capacity Building** – A **structured onboarding process, skills training, and clear role definitions** improve **team efficiency**, ensuring **seamless execution of multiple projects during high-growth periods**.
4. ✔ **Targeted Engagement for Inclusive Participation** – **Customized outreach strategies** are necessary to ensure **diverse community groups (startups, MSMEs, women entrepreneurs, and youth)** actively engage in programs. **Localized approaches and tailored incentives** enhance retention and impact.

5. ✔ **Flexible Program Design Enhances Impact** – **Adapting program structures to meet real-time participant needs** improves engagement and effectiveness. **Hybrid learning models, modular training sessions, and flexible participation options** increase accessibility for diverse audiences.

6. ✔ **Data-Driven Decision Making Strengthens Program Outcomes** – Regular monitoring, evaluation, and feedback loops are essential for **tracking impact, refining strategies, and making informed improvements**. **Leveraging data insights** ensures **better alignment with ecosystem needs and stakeholder expectations**.

Key Success Stories

Success Story	Entrepreneur & Background	Program Support & Intervention	Impact & Achievements
From Idea to Business – A YIC Beneficiary's Journey	Mary, a 23-year-old entrepreneur from Bono, started with an eco-friendly packaging idea.	YIC mentorship, pitch competitions, and makerspace access helped refine her business model and secure funding.	Now supplies 15 SMEs, created 4 jobs, and expanded operations to the Western Region.
Digital Transformation in Action – R4DAC Impact	Akosua, a fashion designer from Ashanti, struggled to market her products beyond her local community.	R4DAC digital literacy training equipped her with social media marketing and e-commerce skills.	Launched an Instagram store, partnered with online vendors, increased customer base by 60%, and boosted sales revenue by 20%.
Breaking Barriers – A PWD Entrepreneur's Success	Kwame, a visually impaired entrepreneur, faced challenges accessing digital financial services.	YIC mentorship introduced him to voice-assisted mobile banking and fintech partnerships.	Enabled 15 PWD entrepreneurs to access digital banking services and inspired fintech inclusivity.

HapaSpace's 2025 Roadmap: Ongoing & Upcoming Initiatives

HapaSpace is poised for **a transformative 2025**, with a mix of **ongoing and upcoming initiatives** designed to **expand digital innovation, entrepreneurship, and economic empowerment** across Ghana.

The focus will be on **scaling impact, strengthening partnerships, and deepening ecosystem engagement**.

Ongoing Initiatives

1. UNVEIL – Supporting Emerging Innovators *(Ongoing)*

The **UNVEIL program**, launched in late **2024**, continues to **empower high-potential entrepreneurs** through:
✔ **Structured mentorship and hands-on training**.
✔ **Access to prototyping and makerspace resources**.
✔ **Investor networking and market-entry support**.

🚀 **Next Steps: Expanding the program reach** to include **more entrepreneurs across multiple regions**, ensuring a **pipeline of scalable innovations**.

2. Youth Innovation Circles (YIC) Expansion *(Ongoing & Expanding in 2025)*

HapaSpace is **currently expanding YIC** to **new regions**, increasing access to:
✔ **Mentorship & capacity-building workshops**.
✔ **Pitch competitions and funding opportunities**.
✔ **New makerspaces to support product development and prototyping**.

🚀 **Next Steps:** Expanding YIC's regional presence and **enhancing sustainability through new funding sources and ecosystem partnerships**.

3. Tech in Ghana Conference – Kumasi Edition *(Ongoing Planning – Event in 2025)*

For the first time, **Tech in Ghana** will be held in **Kumasi**, and HapaSpace is playing a **key role** in ensuring:
✔ **High-level stakeholder engagement**.
✔ **A showcase of regional tech innovations**.
✔ **Opportunities for startups to attract investors**.

🚀 **Next Steps:** Finalizing partnerships and launching a **pre-conference startup showcase event**.

4. Enhanced Startup Support & Incubation *(Ongoing & Expanding in 2025)*

HapaSpace continues to **strengthen its support for early-stage startups**, providing:
✔ **One-on-one mentorship with industry experts**.

✔ **Investment readiness training and funding access**.
✔ **Co-working, technical support, and market-entry assistance**.

🚀 **Next Steps:** Expanding accelerator programs and **introducing new funding and investor matchmaking initiatives**.

Upcoming Initiatives in 2025

5. R4DAC 2.0 – Expanding Digital Literacy for MSMEs *(Launching 2025)*

Following the **success of Phase 1**, the **Radio for Digital Adoption Campaign (R4DAC) will expand** to:
✔ **Reach an additional 600 MSMEs**.
✔ **Deepen digital literacy training for women entrepreneurs and PWDs**.
✔ **Introduce new interactive learning modules on cybersecurity, mobile money, and e-commerce**.

🚀 **Next Steps:** Securing **new media partnerships and rolling out Phase 2 in additional regions**.

6. ACTIVATE Project – Strengthening ATVET in Ghana *(Launching 2025)*

HapaSpace will play a **key role in training participants** under the **Mastercard Foundation-funded ACTIVATE Project**, a **5-year initiative** aimed at:
✔ **Enhancing industry-driven, demand-led Agriculture Technical and Vocational Education and Training (ATVET)**.
✔ **Integrating digital skills and entrepreneurship into ATVET systems**.
✔ **Providing hands-on training to young people in the agricultural sector**.

🚀 **Next Steps: Developing training modules and onboarding participants in early 2025**.

7. Strengthening Research-Industry Linkages *(Scaling in 2025)*

To bridge the gap between **academia and industry**, HapaSpace will focus on:
✔ **Facilitating research commercialization** by supporting startups leveraging research-driven innovations.
✔ **Building stronger HEI-DIH collaboration frameworks** to enhance **innovation transfer**.
✔ **Expanding partnerships with KNUST, KSTU, and other institutions**.

🚀 **Next Steps:** Hosting a **Research-to-Market Forum** to bring together **universities, startups, and investors**.

Strategic Focus for 2025

📌 **Sustaining & Scaling Ongoing Projects – Ensuring continued growth and sustainability** for initiatives like **UNVEIL, YIC, and Tech in Ghana**.

📌 **Launching New Programs** – Implementing **R4DAC 2.0, ACTIVATE, and expanded startup incubation programs**.

📌 **Deepening Ecosystem Collaboration** – Strengthening partnerships with **government, innovation hubs, and private sector investors**.

📌 **Expanding Digital & Financial Inclusion** – Training MSMEs, women entrepreneurs, and PWDs in **digital tools and financial literacy**.

📌 **Bridging Research & Industry Gaps** – Supporting **commercialization of university-led innovations**.

Conclusion

HapaSpace's journey in 2024 has been one of growth, resilience, and measurable impact. Through strategic initiatives, we have empowered hundreds of innovators, supported MSMEs in digital transformation, and expanded access to critical innovation resources. Despite challenges such as resource constraints and startup engagement barriers, we have strengthened ecosystem partnerships, enhanced mentorship networks, and advanced entrepreneurship development across multiple regions.

As we move into 2025, HapaSpace remains committed to scaling innovation programs, fostering digital inclusion, and deepening industry collaborations. With the expansion of Youth Innovation Circles, R4DAC 2.0, ACTIVATE, and UNVEIL, we are poised to create greater opportunities for startups, entrepreneurs, and ecosystem players. Our focus on regional expansion, research-industry linkages, and financial inclusion will further establish HapaSpace as a driving force for technological and entrepreneurial excellence in Ghana and beyond.