## **Press Release:**

## Impact Hub Berlin launches Europe's biggest sustainable coworking space

11 April, Berlin - Impact Hub Berlin has opened its new 3,500m2 coworking space in Berlin-Neukölln to empower entrepreneurs and organisations to co-create innovative solutions for people and the planet. By supporting founders, corporate innovators and institutional changemakers to collaborate through incubators, programming and events, the new Impact Hub Berlin raises the benchmark for the sustainability and innovation ecosystem.

Since 2014, Impact Hub Berlin - part of the Impact Hub global network with presence in over 60 countries - has operated a coworking space and consultancy for social innovation and sustainability. With a local community made up of over 400 entrepreneurs, creatives, and consultants, and having supported and inspired the growth of hundreds of impact ventures through events, accelerators and hackathons, the next exciting chapter has now arrived.

The design of this new state-of-the-art office and maker space raises the bar for sustainable construction principles, for example by reusing materials from the original warehouse, as well as from Impact Hub Berlin's former space. The building is a showcase for sustainability and inclusive design, from its accessible layout, to its energy use and sustainable gastronomy outlet.

"We strongly believe that providing impact-driven entrepreneurs and innovators in Berlin with access to the right physical, economic and network assets, combined with the backing of our global Impact Hub network, will help unleash their potential to tackle the challenges of our time. With this substantial growth commitment, we're looking to help establish Berlin as the leading city worldwide for entrepreneurs who want to create positive social and environmental impact." - Leon Reiner, Co-Founder & Managing Director, Impact Hub Berlin

It's been clear looking back at the past two years that lives, societies and careers will not look the same as they did before. While remote working has been shown to be increasingly possible, people have relied upon the support of their communities more than ever. Entrepreneurs, many of whom are working to fix the flaws in our society exposed by multiple crises, our changing climate and global inequality, still need space in which to connect and grow. This is where Impact Hub Berlin's role lies.

The new Impact Hub Berlin is located on the site of the former Kindl Brewery in Berlin's Neukölln district. Since 2016, this area, under the stewardship of the Edith Maryon Foundation, has been developed by the building cooperative, TRNSFRM GmbH. TRNSFRM's focus has been on Berlin's transition towards a circular economy – one in which resources are reused, repurposed and regenerated, rather than wasted. Their team led the renovation of the former brewery hall, renamed as the CRCLR House, which is now the new home of Impact Hub Berlin.

Almost 1/3 of all waste in the EU comes from the building and construction industry, which accounts for 38% of emissions globally. Through collaborating with TRNSFRM and the project's interior architects LXSY Architekten, who led participative workshops with users and the local community to inform their inclusive and sustainable design process, Impact Hub Berlin sets a new standard for eco-friendly architecture.

A larger space means more opportunities for the next generation of impact entrepreneurs to join the many successful businesses to have flourished within the Impact Hub Berlin community to date, such as jobs4refugees, a social enterprise who support migrants to find fulfilling work, and Minespider, a fast-growing startup using blockchain technology to make supply chains more sustainable. The focus will be on offering support to high-potential ventures operative in Impact Hub Berlin's four core ecosystems: the Circular Economy, Sustainable Food, Diversity & Inclusion and Green Technology.

## **About Impact Hub Berlin:**

- <u>Impact Hub Berlin</u> empowers entrepreneurs and organisations to create innovative solutions for people and the planet.
- Founded in 2014, it curates an on- and offline community of impact-driven members, hosts a coworking space with engaging events, and runs social innovation and sustainability programmes connecting impact ventures with the right partners.
- As part of the Impact Hub global network, made up of 100+ locations and more than 24,000 members, it's both locally rooted and globally connected in its mission to help achieve the UN's Sustainable Development Goals.
- Impact Hub Berlin is now the largest sustainable coworking community for impact entrepreneurs in Europe, uniting the key players in the field under one roof.
- Impact Hub Berlin's four core ecosystems are: Circular Economy, Sustainable Food, Diversity & Inclusion and Green Tech.

## About the building:

- The CRCLR House, formerly the Kindl brewery hall, is renovated according to circular construction principles.
- All building materials are either reused or reusable (unless legal regulations prohibit this).
- Interior fittings can be largely dismantled and reassembled in the event of a change of use.
- The design process was fully collaborative, including consultations with users, neighbours and experts.
- Facility management is focused on waste minimisation and efficient energy use.
- To combat the 8.5 million tons of office furniture per year that go to landfill, Impact Hub Berlin uses rental and reused furniture wherever possible.
- Located in Berlin's vibrant Neukölln neighbourhood with 3,500m2 floor space (Rollbergstraße 28A, 12053, Berlin, Germany).

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