

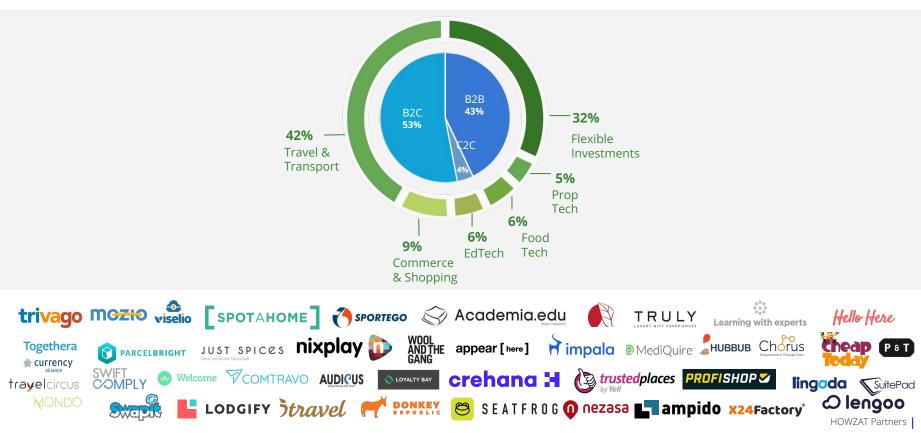
## 5 MAIN CAUSES WHY EARLY STAGE START-UPS FAIL TO RAISE

19.08.2021 H/F Webinar



#### HOWZAT PARTNERS: WE HAVE BUILT STRONG EXPERTISE ACROSS OUR CORE SECTORS





#### AN EXPERIENCED TEAM WITH HIGH STANDARDS

We bring to the table outstanding entrepreneurial know-how, as well as investment, management, financial and legal expertise.



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THE MVP EDITION

Mast



- Partner)



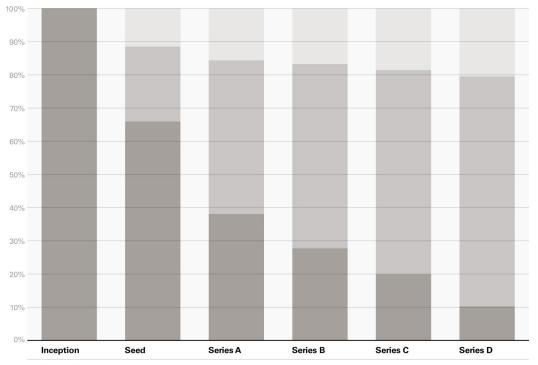


- (Operative) Founding team has too little shares left
  - Excessive dilution in past rounds
  - Passive shareholders (former co-founders)
- Too many little shareholders





#### **CAPTABLE PROBLEMS - TYPICAL SHARE DISTRIBUTION**



Average founder ownership in cap table

Average investor ownership in cap table

Average employee ownership in cap table (ESOP combined)



#### CAPTABLE PROBLEMS - INVESTOR EXPECTATIONS

"Every investor has a different minimum equity threshold he wants founders/mgt. to hold. I have seen Series A rounds fall apart, because the founders only held 30% of the company"

Former Head of M4E at Axel Springer

"The Cap-Table issue must be resolved prior to Series A. Else, no VC that I know, would take a look. They simply don't want to be bothered with the hassle of resolving this situation."

Partner, Atlantic Labs



#### **CAPTABLE PROBLEMS - HOW TO PREVENT/MITIGATE**

• Prevention

- Beware of minimum ownership benchmarks in order to avoid over-dilution in the first place
- Work with reverse vesting already upon company formation
- Mitigation
  - Resolve issue before you go out and address investors (legally binding shareholder/board resolution necessary
  - Options at hand
    - ESOP
    - Capital increase with capital reserve payment = future liability



## 4 TOO LITTLE TIME PLANNED FOR FUNDRAISING

- Complexity of fundraising process often times severely underestimated.
- Team goes out too late -> backed against the wall / runs out of money



#### 4 TOO LITTLE TIME PLANNED FOR FUNDRAISING -MITIGATION

- Expect a minimum duration of >6 months
- Align your internal budget, roadmap / milestone plan and work backward
- Establish and cultivate investor relationships ahead of time
  - Investor updates to stay in the fold



#### YOUR MARKET IS TOO SMALL / WRONG INVESTOR

- >1x fund return necessity
  - 100mio = <10% -> 1bn
- TAM/SAM/SOM
- SAM = 10bn







- How severe is the pain/problem you are solving?
- Focus key: 5 small vs. 1 large
- Your product/service needs to be 10x better than the status quo
- Ask yourself why your business fulfills this rule
- How can you prove this? Traction vs. surveys



### 1 THEY DON'T BELIEVE YOU'RE THE TEAM TO PULL IT OFF

- Strong team trumps individual stars
  - Single founders
  - Complementary skills <> necessary skills
  - Industry expertise / network
  - Attitude (Self Reflection) / Vision
- Be bold, but don't be naive
  - Bullish revenue, but not craaazy (Hockey Stick)
  - Understanding of the workings of the business model and its main levers, realistic level of expenditures



# FUNDRAISING MASTERCLASS

MVP Edition powered by Howzat Partners



#### OUTLINE

- 1. Masterclass Structure
- 2. Curriculum
- 3. Application Process



#### MASTERCLASS - MVP EDITION STRUCTURE

- Duration: 10 weeks
- Weekly webinars

- Weekly Mastermind Group Meetings
- Individual Coaching Sessions
- Closing Event





- 1. What you need to know when assembling a founding Team
- 2. How to get to a Proof of Concept
- 3. Legal Set-Up
- 4. Investor Landscape and Expectations
- 5. How to master the art of fundraising
- 6. How to build a winning Pitch Deck
- 7. How to build a financial plan that is VC proof
- 8. Arriving in the post fundraise reality
- 9. How to scale your business



# 3 MASTERCLASS APPLICATION PROCESS

- 1. Application Questionnaire
- 2. Face-to-Face Zoom Call

Application deadline: Date Start Masterclass: 01.10.2021



## Visit us:

## www.fundraising-masterclass.com