“In Israel there are 6,500 startup firms registered, which makes it worldwide number 2 in absolute figures. Regarding the number of startups per capita Israel is by far the number 1, which earned it the title of “Startup Nation”.

The B’nai B’rith Franz Rosenzweig Lodge Düsseldorf in cooperation with the Friedrich Naumann Foundation organised a podium discussion about the innovative Israeli economy and the potential for German-Israeli cooperations.

After greetings by the Director of the Northrhine-Westphalia branch of the Friedrich Naumann Foundation and by Dr. Michael Naor, president of the B’nai B’rith Lodge, 4 Experts presented different aspects of the topic.

Doron Abrahami, the Israeli attaché for Economy and Commerce at the Embassy of the State of Israel in Berlin (photo, 1. from left), gave an overview about Israeli innovations, current trends of international investments in Israel as well as large-scale research & development activities of global players in the country.
Dr. Markus Gick, Senior Project manager at the Bertelsmann Foundation (photo, 1. from right), reported about a study he did about German-Israeli economic relations and highlighted the benefits of the Israeli High-Tech Ecosystem for German firms.

Roy Naor, an associate at the international law firm DWF (photo, 3. from right), gave an overview about legal and procedural aspects in the bilateral economic relations. He especially elaborated on the area of Cybersecurity as one of the most important and interesting fields for German firms, since most of the technologies in this area come from Israel and the USA.

Dr. Philipp Raidt, Head of Portfolio at Axel Springer Digital Classifieds in Berlin (photo, 2. from left), presented the experiences of his enterprise having so far invested in 3 firms in Israel. He described the typical atmosphere in the country and the typical mentality of Israelis, hinting at helpful approaches in order to gain from it.

About 120 guests came to the event, which took place at the Business Club of Düsseldorf (“Wirtschaftsclub”). Among them Christoph Dammermann, the State Secretary in the Ministry for Economy and Commerce of the State of Northrhine-Westphalia, Dr. Oded Horowitz, Chairman of the Executive Board of the Jewish Community, representatives of the City of Düsseldorf, of the Chamber of Commerce and a number of personalities from local public life.

After a round of discussion with all the lecturers guests were invited to a get-together with wine and canapés, which enabled further networking in a relaxed and friendly atmosphere”.

Dr. Michael Naor, president

B'nai B'rith Düsseldorf Franz Rosenzweig Lodge