



Welcome to the April newsletter of Startup Europe Regions Network. We would like to share with you interesting initiatives, news and events about EU regions, as well as information about SERN activities and upcoming events.

Enjoy your reading!



EU funding opportunities for women

Female creativity and entrepreneurial potential are an **under-exploited source** of economic growth and jobs. The objective of the project – **WE GROW** - is to stimulate female participation and increase female success in EU funding for research, development and innovation. More information and application [here](#).



Open Innovation in Europe: time to involve SMEs

Open innovation is a must have for all companies. However today in Europe we see that only large corporates are currently active in open innovation, while the SMEs who form the backbone of European industry are still out of the open innovation game. In response to this Mind the Bridge is launching, with the support of DG GROW, a pilot for matching mid-size companies with startups. More information [here](#).



Groningen hosts the biggest Blockchain Hackaton event in the world

From 5-8 April, over 700 pioneers gathered in Groningen, the Netherlands, for the second edition of the largest physical annual blockchain hackathon in the world. For four days and nights, the city of Groningen turned into a global epicenter of blockchain prototyping, with around 65 teams from all over the world working on solutions for societal challenges.



European Innovation Council pilot to support 257 SMEs with €13 million

The EU will support 257 small and medium-sized companies (SMEs) from 31 countries who aim to get their innovations faster to the market. The companies have been selected in the latest round of the [SME Instrument](#), which is part of the recently launched European Innovation Council (EIC) pilot. The funding of €12.65 million in total comes from Horizon 2020, the EU research and innovation programme. More information [here](#).



The 2018 edition of #EURRegionsWeek will take place on 8-11 October 2018. From 16 to 27 April, you can vote for your favourite proposals in an [open online consultation on](#) the EU Regions Week website. Support SERN by selecting the thematic cluster "Education, culture and youth" and voting for **"PCP and PPI: Challenges faced by regions and cities"**. Thank you in advance!