



Welcome to the March 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!



In March 2018, as part of its Fintech action plan, the European Commission presented a [proposal for a regulation on crowdfunding service providers](#). The new regulations will improve access to this innovative form of finance for small investors and businesses in need of funding, particularly start-ups.



The European Investment Project Portal is the speed-dating, online, central platform for EU projects and investors worldwide. It is hosted by the European Commission and is part of the Investment Plan for Europe, aiming to mobilise investment, promote economic growth and create more jobs across the EU. You can register [here](#).



iEER is an Interreg Europe funded flagship project bringing together 10 regions around Europe. Initiated by a group of regions awarded with the European Entrepreneurial Region label, iEER will define smart paths and solutions to boost regional entrepreneurship ecosystems supporting young entrepreneurs. More information [here](#).



The CoR, in cooperation with the OECD, has carried out an online consultation on **Funding, management and regulatory challenges to infrastructure investment of EU cities and regions**. The answers by local and regional experts provide a useful snapshot of the situation on the ground with regards to infrastructure investment by cities and regions, as well as its evolution over time. Discover the results of the consultation [here](#).



Commission support for industrial regions to build resilient and competitive economies

The Commission has announced on the 7th of March 2018, which **additional industrial transition regions** will benefit from tailored support under an EU-funded pilot action. Today, the Commission has selected **7 additional EU regions and Member States** for tailored assistance under the Commission pilot action on industrial transition: Cantabria (Spain), Centre-Val de Loire (France), East-North Finland, Grand-Est (France) and Greater Manchester (United Kingdom) as well as Lithuania and Slovenia.



PUBLIC CONSULTATION ON THE REVIEW OF SME DEFINITION

The European Commission calls national and regional organizations, enterprises, business associations, venture capital providers, research and academic institutions, and individual citizens to participate in public consultation on the review of the SME definition. The consultation is open from 6 February to 6 May 2018. All citizens and organisations are welcome to contribute to this [consultation](#).



The **high-level conference on "Smart Specialisation and Technology Transfer as Innovation Drivers For regional Growth"** will take place the **3rd and 4th of May 2018 in Sofia, Bulgaria**. The proposed conference will consider the opportunities and challenges for Europe, notably SouthEast Europe, in research, development, education, employment and innovation and in particular, the process of skills creation, knowledge and technology. More information and registration [here](#).