



Welcome to the May 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!



19 June 2018
Brussels

**More women
in Digital:**
a strategy for growth
and equality



Call for EU women led tech-startups

In the frame of the Digital4Her event, the European Commission is launching a call for women led startups. While the event makes part of the "Women in Digital" initiative, in order to encourage a more active role of women in the digital age, this call is specifically addressed to women entrepreneurs that bring new ideas to the tech market. More information on the selection process [here](#).



**Regions and cities sound
alarm as cuts and centralisation
threaten Europe's future**

The European Commission's proposal for the new Multiannual Financial Framework responds to **Europe's regions and cities call for stronger investment in education, research, youth and migration**, but fails to address the increasing need to reduce disparities across the Union, according to the European Committee of the Regions' President. More information [here](#).



**Guidance on Public
Procurement**

The European Commission has published this week a Commission Notice "**Guidance on Innovation procurement**". It clarifies what is innovation procurement, outlines how to setup a policy framework and describes how different public procurement procedures can be put at work to modernize public services with innovative solutions and create growth and jobs for innovators in Europe. The guidance is available [here](#).



The Association for Innovative Initiatives (IKE2020) in cooperation with Slovak Business Agency (SBA) and H13 Startup Incubator have organized a pitching event on 16 May 2018 for women business angels and startups. The project pursues the overall objective of facilitating the funding of women entrepreneurs through women business angels and contributing to the creation of a sustainable base of private investment in Europe. More information [here](#).



The **SME Instrument programme** bridges the critical investment gap in early-stage innovation and makes market-creating innovation easier in Europe and it has become an essential player on the European innovation scene. The **2018 edition of the SME Instrument report** reveals the ins and outs of Europe's most wanted innovation funding programme for small businesses and presents you with its best successes. You can find the report [here](#).

