



an initiative of



# STARTUP EUROPE

## REGIONS NETWORK

## Startup Europe Regions Network (SERN)



# The Model



## A Network of Regions dedicated to scaling up startup support:

- Non for profit association;
- A solid group of regions as **founding members**;
- *SERN **core members are regions** but is open to extended membership, if relevant (e.g. associations, universities if regionally mandated);*
- Permanent secretariat based in Brussels.



# Activities

## **SERN focuses on**

1. Mapping and providing better understanding of regional initiatives to support startups;
2. Highlighting best practices;
3. Providing recommendations;
4. Connecting the relevant stakeholders and facilitating learning from each other.





## Current State of Affairs

**October 2015:** Launch of SERN at CoR

**July 2016:** Creation of SERN as a AISBL in Brussels

**27 April 2017:** SERN is presented at Startup Ole, Spain

**16 May 2017:** SERN is presented at Agora 2017, Brussels

**May 2017:** Reaches 15 members

**14 June 2017:** SERN "Moving Forward" Event, Brussels

**December 2017:** Reaches 20 members

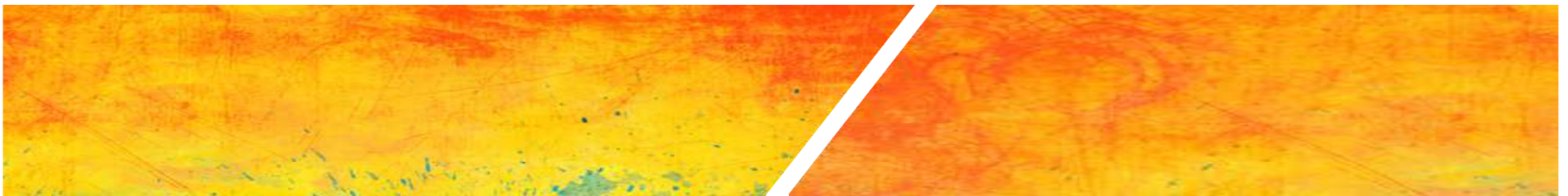
**2018:** Reaches 27 members

Baden-Württemberg, North of Portugal, Emilia-Romagna, Nice/Cote d'Azur, Extremadura, Budapest Metro Area, Timisoara, Coruña, Lisbon, Murcia, Northern-Netherlands, Georgia, Ireland (Cork), West Romania, Ireland, Germany, Greece, Nord-France, Slovakia, Valencia, Croatia





# SERN Activities



# SERN Thematic Areas



**Reflection of SERN thematic categories and cover, among others, the following main topics:**



Regional  
Ecosystem



Innovation  
Procurement



ICT & Arts



Financial  
Instruments



## SERN Thematic Activity Regional Ecosystem (I)

### ‘The Role of Multinational Corporations (MNCs) in Regional Innovation Ecosystem’



Online webinar on the **8<sup>th</sup> of March 2018**

Presentations of three initiatives from our Hungarian members

The recording of the webinar, presentations of the speakers and the minutes are available on SERN website.

## SERN Thematic Activity Regional Ecosystem (II)



**“How to become a global innovation hub? Paris Region’s support to startups and the innovation ecosystem.”**



Online webinar on the **6<sup>th</sup> of December 2018**

Presentation of the regional policies in favor of startups

[Register Here!](#)



# SERN Thematic Activity Innovation Procurement (I)

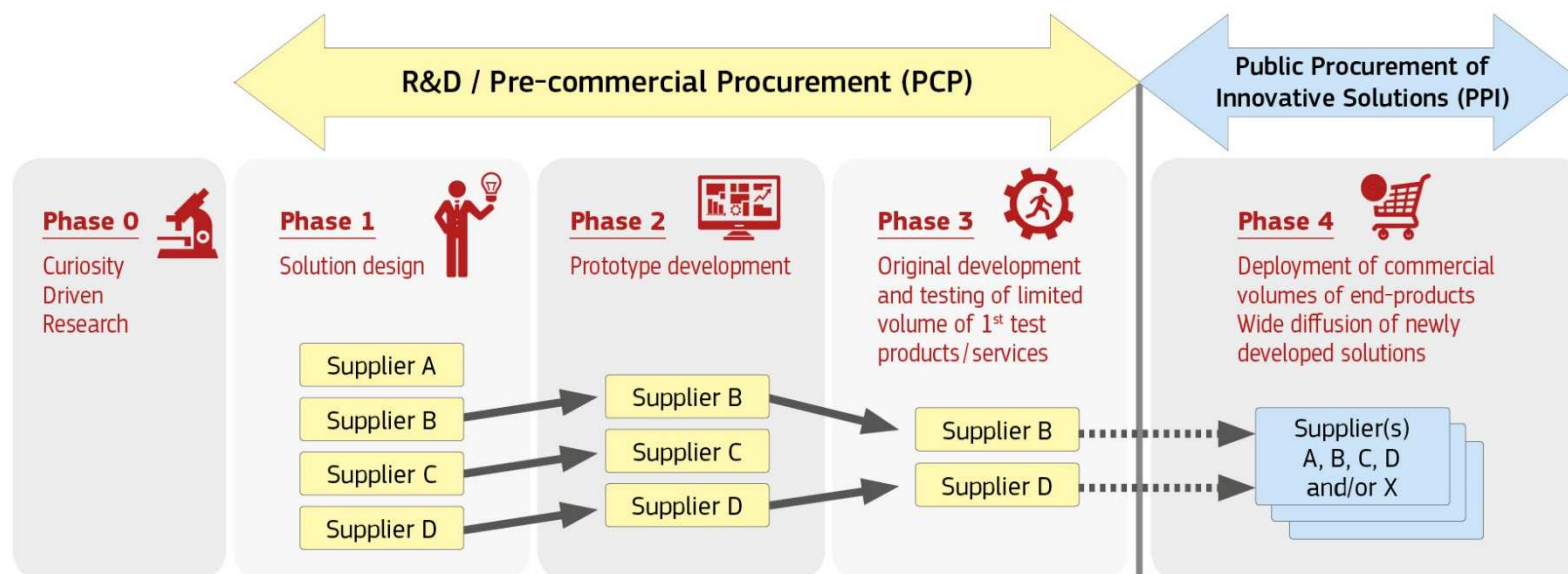
## Learning Accelerating Platform (LEA)



The goal is to **accelerate knowledge transfer, dialog and awareness raising of innovative procurement** within the learning technology sector by creating a European wide learntech procurers' network. LEA is preparing **the first cross-border European Public Procurement of Innovation (PPI)** and wants to showcase the excellent opportunities for procurement of innovation within that sector.



# Learning Accelerating Platform (LEA)



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## SERN Thematic Activity Innovation Procurement (II)

SERN Session at the European Week of Regions and Cities 2018



*“Pre-Commercial Procurement: challenges faced by regions and cities”*

**9<sup>th</sup> of October 2018 from 11:30 am to 1:00 pm at Building SQUARE –  
Brussels Convention Centre.**





## SERN Thematic Activity Innovation Procurement (III)



### Guidance on Innovation Procurement

Offers practical guidance on innovation public procurement, 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.

# SERN Thematic Activity ICT and Arts



Enhancing SME growth by the integration of Artists in ICT projects



RegionArts is a five-year interregional project seeking **to improve the implementation of Structural Funds/other funds** in the project partner regions, through adapting or designing 1 support scheme in each region for **the promotion of collaborations between artists and ICT companies.**





# SERN Thematic Activity Financial Instruments

## Financial Instrument for Innovation



Innova-FI partners are seeking **to improve the design and implementation of Financial Instruments** as a delivery mode of Structural Funds, so that they best meet and serve the financing needs of innovative and RTDI-driven businesses in all the stages of their start-up and growth. It will be done by **learning about the innovation landscape, and how it is being publicly financed**, in partner regions.

# SERN Thematic Activity Financial Instruments



## EOE BRUSSELS

Date: 06 and 07 November 2018



### **Innova-FI Tool 'Financing Innovation'**

Development of a database tool to evaluate how regions are currently using financial instruments for the support of innovative businesses.

Experts on Financial Instruments (EC and UK)





## The way forward - 2019

Organisation of **thematic activities groups – workshops** according to interest from members:

How to become a  
global innovation  
hub

Public  
procurement for  
SMEs

Financial  
instruments for  
startups

- Chaired by a SERN member;
- Online discussions with members interested on the topic;

## The way forward - 2019



- Participation on EU projects relevant for members
- Annual event in Brussels
- Monthly newsletter
- Representation in Brussels (office space, hosting meetings at our office etc.)

# How SERN can help you ?

## Profile Raising

Use SERN to raise your profile in Brussels and promote your activities and events

## Intelligence

Use SERN for early information on policy, funding opportunities and public consultations

## Project Development

Use SERN to put forward ideas, find potential partners and identifying strategic partnerships

## Policy Influencing

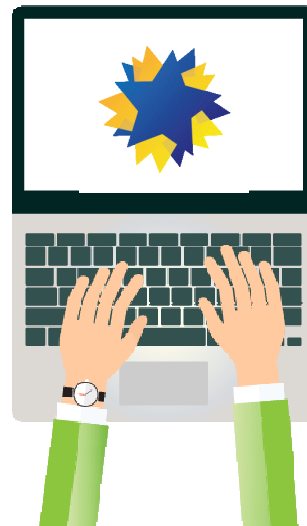
Use SERN to anticipate relevant EU policies and provide articles





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SERN  
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No membership  
fee



Short form

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