

Consultation on EU Startup & Scaleup Strategy



18.02.2025

TO: Regional Innovation Valleys

The new European Commission, which took office on 1 December 2024, has put startups, research and innovation among the key priorities of its mandate, with the goal of closing the innovation divide between the EU and its global competitors and boosting competitiveness.

The new Commissioner for Startups, Research and Innovation, Ekaterina Zaharieva, chairing a dedicated Project Group of Commissioners, will develop and implement a series of regulatory, budgetary and policy initiatives to reach these goals.

In particular, President von der Leyen has requested a **'EU Startup and Scaleup Strategy'** to improve the framework conditions in which startups and scaleups operate.

European innovative companies face a number of obstacles - from access to finance to access to markets, from administrative to regulatory fragmentations - hindering their growth and forcing some of them to leave our continent. Our future Strategy will tackle these obstacles, but it can only be effective and relevant if founders and other key stakeholders within the innovation chain are involved.

An online consultation ("Call for evidence") has been launched on February 17 on the "Have your say" portal in the Europa website (https://ec.europa.eu/info/law/better-regulation/have-your-say/initiatives/14530-EU-Start-up-and-Scale-up-Strategy_en) and will run for 4 weeks. Contributions from private and public stakeholders, as well as by individuals, that will be collected in this portal will then be processed and analysed, in order to feed the strategy and the instruments that the Commission will propose in the coming months.

Considering the strategic role of the Regional Innovation Valleys, we would like to encourage you to participate and to actively promote the consultation among your partners and stakeholders. In case you would like to organize a local consultation event, you can use the attached sheet and visual identity.

The formal online consultation will close on March 17 2025, but the outcomes of specific events can still feed the consultation process until Mid-May 2025.

For further information you can contact <RTD-STARTUP-SCALEUP-TASKFORCE@ec.europa.eu>