



European  
Commission

#VentureEU



# START-UPS AND SCALE-UPS THE WIDER EU ECOSYSTEM

Securing growth and jobs

Europe boasts a wealth of talent, world-class researchers and skilled entrepreneurs but many new firms don't make it beyond the critical first few years because they can't get the finance to scale up into global businesses. The Juncker Commission wants to give Europe's many innovative start-ups every opportunity to become world-leading companies while remaining in the EU.

## CREATING BUSINESS

FUNDING



IDEAS



2<sup>ND</sup> CHANCE



SKILLS



## IMPROVING ACCESS TO FUNDING

- The **Investment Plan for Europe**: making better use of financial resources; providing advisory support and increasing transparency on investment opportunities; improving the investment environment.
- **VentureEU**: boosting investment from venture capital and making funding more accessible to small and innovative enterprises.
- **Capital Markets Union**: facilitating cross-border raising of venture capital by changing the EU venture capital framework.
- **European Innovation Council**: providing bottom-up support for breakthrough innovation projects and contributing to the upscaling of companies.
- **EU financing instruments**: the EU budget guarantee - European Fund for Strategic Investments (EFSI), European Structural and Investment Funds, Europe's programme for small and medium-sized enterprises COSME, the EU Programme for Employment and Social Innovation (EaSI) and the EU research and innovation programme Horizon 2020.



## HELPING EARLY-STAGE IDEAS MATURE



### ▶ MAKING THE MOST OF DATA:

- One single EU law for data protection and one single supervisory authority for all companies doing business in Europe.
- EU space programmes offer business opportunities for innovative start-ups developing new space-based services and applications, and the Commission is facilitating their access to space data.

### ▶ SUPPORTING POCKETS OF EXCELLENCE AND GROWTH NETWORKS:

- The Commission helps start-ups scale up by connecting their founders with investors and corporate enterprises from other local European and international ecosystems.
- The Startup Europe network has been reinforced to connect clusters and ecosystems across Europe with a focus on Central and Eastern Europe / Western Balkans.

### ▶ PROMOTING AND PROTECTING INNOVATION:

- The Unitary Patent will enable simple and affordable patent protection in Europe with a single procedure for the registration of patents.
- The Commission has presented additional measures to ensure that intellectual property rights are well-protected, thereby encouraging EU companies, in particular SMEs and start-ups, to invest in innovation and creativity.

### ▶ TAPPING INTO A POTENTIAL CUSTOMER BASE OF 500 MILLION PEOPLE:

- We are boosting e-commerce and making it increasingly easy for start-ups to buy or sell products and services across the EU Single Market.
- Shipping a parcel to another Member State is also becoming more affordable and efficient.

### ▶ SIMPLIFYING TAX FILINGS:

The Commission has proposed:

- a Common Consolidated Corporate Tax Base (CCCTB).
- simplification of the EU VAT system.
- guidance on best practice in tax regimes for venture capital.

### ▶ HELPING NAVIGATE PAPERWORK:

- The Enterprise Europe Network supports start-ups, helping them navigate paperwork, find funding opportunities, and offer advice on accessing cross-border public procurement.
- The Commission is making it easier for start-ups to manage their paperwork online.

## GIVING ENTREPRENEURS A SECOND CHANCE



The Commission has proposed a new insolvency law:

- struggling companies can restructure early on so as to prevent bankruptcy.
- entrepreneurs will be fully discharged of the debt from previous business ventures after a maximum period of 3 years.

## INVESTING IN PEOPLE'S SKILLS



- The Commission has defined key competences and provided guidance to EU Member States on promoting entrepreneurial drive and innovation.
- Under the Digital Education Action Plan, the EU will support schools with high-speed broadband connections and help make better use of digital technology.