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Europe, with its cultural diversity and world-class universities, boasts a thriving entrepreneurial community. In fact, it has a lot of great web entrepreneurial success stories, from Rovio to Spotify to Xing. Yet, there is a lot more that can be done to nurture start-ups, encourage web entrepreneurship – and give the European economy a much-needed boost.

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--- Posted by [Isidro Laso Ballesteros](#) [4], DG INFSO, Project Officer in the unit for Networked Media

Europe, with its cultural diversity and world-class universities, boasts a thriving entrepreneurial community. In fact, it has a lot of great web entrepreneurial success stories, from [Rovio](#) [5] to [Spotify](#) [6] to [Xing](#) [7]. Yet, there is a lot more that can be done to nurture start-ups, encourage web entrepreneurship – and give the European economy a much-needed boost.

The European Commission is sponsoring a crowd-sourced design challenge on [OpenIDEO](#) [8], asking: “how might we support web entrepreneurs to launch and grow sustainable global businesses?” to open up idea generation to the global community.

Follow and join the debate at www.openideo.com [8] or [#oi_startup](#) [9] on twitter.

If you’ve been involved in entrepreneurial activity, or think you have a few ideas about it, we want to hear from you! Tell us about clever techniques currently fostering web entrepreneurs worldwide – from Berlin to London, from Silicon Valley to Shanghai. And think up some of the creative ideas that could support the industry across Europe, whether it's through education, awareness, new activities, new services or even regulatory change.

Everyone is welcome to participate [here](#) [10], regardless of entrepreneurial experience or location. The challenge opens on 13th of March and runs **until 29th May**. The winning concepts will be presented at the [Digital Agenda Assembly](#) [11] in Brussels in June.

The Commission is gathering ideas through [OpenIDEO](#) [12], a platform developed by London based firm IDEO to include a broader range of people in the design process - through the stages of inspiration, concepting, and evaluation. OpenIDEO has grown to a community of 28,000 members from over 170 countries and has tackled 12 design challenges for social good ranging from maternal health in low income countries to finding ways to restore the vibrancy of cities in decline.

This challenge is the first part of the European Commission's ambitious strategy to support the growing community of EU web entrepreneurs. The Openideo challenge and the Tech All Stars event, the first of its kind in Europe, will take the first bold steps in this new direction by bringing together early stage tech startups, the EU, and the European investor community

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