



Contest: 5 tickets for LeWeb'13 Paris for 5 innovative entrepreneurs from 5 EU countries

Background:

Digital economy boosts growth and employment. By using digital technologies a wider range of opportunities are created for businesses, individuals and society as a whole. Entrepreneurs are encouraged to make use of ICT and to take advantage of the openings offered by the digital market to leverage their businesses. Nevertheless European digital entrepreneurship is experiencing a slower growth as compared with other regions in the world.

European digital start-ups face a number of challenges and barriers when trying to grow and expand their activities cross border: from lack of digital skills to bureaucracy, from lack of entrepreneurial climate to difficulties in accessing finance, not mentioning the diversity dimension of the EU and the language barriers. But there might be others, country-based or regional-based, not identified by surveys and not measured in statistics.

Description of the concept:

Our aim is to gather new input regarding barriers but also incentives for the growth of innovative start-ups in Europe. Furthermore a debate around these barriers and incentives is encouraged. In this way the community may take advantage of the experience of others and find new solutions to their problems. The contest is open to all entrepreneurs/start-ups as described in the target group.

Five tickets to attend [LeWeb'13 Paris](#) will be offered to five participants from five different countries. They will be selected on the basis of five criteria and chosen during the ICT 2013 event in Vilnius. Each ticket is valid for one person for all the 3 days of the event and gives access to all activities [described on the website of the event](#).

The five winners will be invited to give a presentation of their proposal and the conclusions of the brainstorming around it during the seminar organised by the European Commission on December 11th during LeWeb'13 Paris. In this seminar DG CONNECT will disseminate information regarding the European Commission's support to [innovation and entrepreneurship](#) in the digital area. This will include the first work programme to be deployed under Horizon 2020, innovation instruments and other policy actions.

The European Commission will not cover the travel and accommodation costs to LeWeb'13 Paris. The winners have to cover by themselves the travel and accommodation costs during LeWeb'13 Paris.

Target group

We are encouraging the participation of innovative entrepreneurs/start-ups from European Union countries which are planning to develop or are in the process of developing a business by making use of digital technologies and services.

What are we looking for?

In order for your proposal to pass the selection stage you have to:

1. provide a clear description of the barrier(s) you are facing in your effort to develop a digital business – in English, maximum 1500 characters without spaces
2. provide a clear description of the proposed solution(s) to overcome the barrier(s) – in English, maximum 1500 characters without spaces
3. propose incentive(s) needed to be put in place in order to stimulate the growth of innovative companies - in English, maximum 1500 characters without spaces
4. mention at least one well-known success story in your country, as a relevant example for the digital business and provide the link to the associated website – in English, maximum 500 characters without spaces
5. attract as many people as possible on the contest page to debate and brainstorm around the problem and the solutions described.

All five points above are representing the selection criteria and all of them must be addressed to pass the selection stage.

Your proposal will be made publicly available on the Digital Agenda for Europe website. You must reply to any comments/questions raised in relation to your proposal.

NB: all the content - proposals, comments, replies - will have to respect the general rules of posting online. We reserve the right to remove inappropriate posts which might harm the image or violate any rights of the members of this community or any third party.

Process

- all interested parties from the target group are invited to apply by creating an account and posting their proposal as COMMENT. They have to mention in the Subject line their country and the main barrier they will describe under the first point. The deadline for sending a proposal is [November 3rd](#).
- the applications will be checked against the selection criteria by an internal DG CONNECT evaluation committee. In order for an application to be taken into account, all five selection criteria must be fulfilled.
- the 5 winners will be chosen on [November 8th](#) during the conference "[Grow: Let's hear it from the start-ups and SMEs. Let's cluster](#)" as part of the [ICT2013](#) event in Vilnius, Lithuania. All interested participants are welcomed to [register](#) and attend the event.
- One winner per country is allowed. Nevertheless a back-up list will be created. Thus the final list after picking will contain 10 names from minimum 5 countries, maximum 2 names per country - the winner and their backup.

Example: first name picked is from country X – accepted

Second name picked is from country X – accepted as backup for first name picked

Third name picked is from country X - rejected

- the winners will have until [November 18th](#) to accept or decline the ticket; the unused tickets will be allocated to the back-up person. The back-up person will have until [November 22nd](#) to confirm acceptance of the ticket. Should the back-up person also decline the prize, the ticket will remain unallocated.

- the winners will themselves cover the cost of travel and accommodation linked to their participation at LeWeb'13 Paris

- the final participants will receive their access code to LeWeb'13 Paris

- on [December 11th](#) the final participants will present their proposals and the conclusions of the brainstorming around it during the seminar organised by the European Commission on December 11th during LeWeb'13 Paris.