



**The Next Generation Internet @ 4YFN  
€75 million up for grabs as NGI initiative courts Europe's top internet  
innovators**

**25-27 February 2019, Barcelona, Spain**

**The Next Generation Internet (NGI) initiative will be fully present at the 2019 Four Years From Now (4YFN) conference in Barcelona to enthusiastically promote its current open calls, with up to €75 million in funding available for cutting-edge Research and Innovation projects.**

To amplify its message, NGI will also host a booth and conduct several workshops demonstrating the importance of the initiative to Europe's digital landscape, both now and in the future.

The Next Generation Internet (NGI) initiative was launched in 2016 by the European Commission's Director General of DG CONNECT Roberto Viola. Under the Horizon 2020 programme, the EC has invested more than €250 million in digital research and innovation. The NGI has also been earmarked as a key intervention area in [Horizon Europe](#) (2021-2027). In a recent [blog post](#), Roberto Viola says:

*"The [NGI] programme focuses on key technology areas that are driving the development of the Internet, including blockchain, Internet of Things, social media, interactive technologies, as well as technologies supporting multilingualism and accessibility.*

NGI currently has four Open Calls that offer funding for innovative research in the key focus areas of: **Privacy & Trust Enhancing Technologies, Decentralised Data Governance** and **Next Generation Search & Discovery**.

*"With these first open calls, we invite top European internet talents to engage in NGI and contribute with their ideas to building a better internet, says Viola.*

Interested parties can find out more about the NGI Open Calls by attending 4YFN and visiting the NGI booth (booth 52), which will have an area dedicated to information about the calls. SMEs, startups and researchers can also attend two onsite NGI workshops. The first workshop, **NGI as a Catalyst for Europe** at 12pm on 25 February, will include a session of 1-minute pitches for NGI funding. The second workshop, **The Future of NGI**, at 10.30am on 27 February will offer five inspirational presentations from internet innovators.

*"Too often top internet innovators are not associated with European funding because of perceived high barriers to entry. We intend to lower these barriers by offering funding opportunities for accessible, small, focused and agile projects ... with a view to create a community of stakeholders united around a common goal: to build an internet of humans," Viola says.*

## The four current NGI Open Calls:

**NGI Trust:** Privacy & Trust Enhancing Technologies – funding up to €200,000 (under conditions) for technical innovation in privacy enhancing technologies at the protocol level using technology such as IoT, AI and cryptography.

**LEDGER:** Decentralised Technologies – funding up to €200,000 to make data a common good owned by citizens using technologies such as blockchain, distributed ledger and peer-to-peer networks.

**NGI Zero Discovery:** Next Generation Search & Discovery – funding of €5,000-€50,000 for projects that put powerful new search technology in the hands of future generations, to help build a fair and democratic society and an open economy.

**NGI Zero PET:** Privacy & Trust Enhancing Technologies – funding of €5,000- €50,000 for technologies aimed at providing people with new instruments that allow them more agency – and assist us with fulfilling the human need of keeping some private and confidential context and information private and confidential.

Link: <https://www.ngi.eu/opencalls/>

## NGI at 4YFN

- **NGI booth:** 52 in the exhibition area providing information about Open Calls
- Dedicated **NGI space in the EU Projects Lounge** area
- NGI will host two onsite **workshops** during the event:
  - Workshop 1: [NGI as a catalyst for Europe](#), Monday 25 February, 12.00pm. This workshop will be a deep dive into European plans and new funding for NGI, bringing to the stage some examples of what is already being developed and testing by European NGI Early Adopters.
  - Workshop 2: [The Future of NGI](#), Wednesday 27 February, 10.30am. This workshop will have on stage some inspiring innovators to debate and explore the main challenges and opportunities to shape the internet of the future. We will talk technology, policy and citizen empowerment.
- The [NGI Awards Ceremony](#), Monday 25 February, from 5.30pm, Garden Stage. The NGI Awards celebrate excellence in innovation, disruption, education, research and entrepreneurship in Europe and worldwide.
- Offsite event: [NGI Salon](#), Tuesday 26 February, 2-5pm at the CaixaForum Barcelona. The NGI Salon will discuss, “The past, present and future of (y)our internet” and presents a millennials’ viewpoint on the NGI.

## NGI @4YFN QUOTE:

*“We’re very much looking forward to bringing the NGI to 4YFN once again, especially now that many funding opportunities for start-ups and SMEs are available via the recently launched [NGI Open Calls](#),” says Dr Monique Calisti, CEO of Martel Innovate and coordinator of the NGI Outreach office.*

*“It’s a great opportunity for top-notch researchers, innovators and technologists to meet, be inspired, discover and join the NGI, a movement that’s gathering momentum and interest in the vital work of shaping the internet of tomorrow.”*

**NGI Social Media:**

NGI newsletter: <https://www.ngi.eu/subscribe/>

Twitter: @NGI4EU #NGI4EU <https://twitter.com/ngi4eu>

Instagram: <https://www.instagram.com/ngi4eu/>

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LinkedIn: <https://www.linkedin.com/groups/2206279/>

**NGI Media / PR contact:** [press@ngi.eu](mailto:press@ngi.eu)

**Photos:** <http://tinyurl.com/NGIpress>