



Your vision – Your strategy

Eligible candidates are invited to draft a political **EER strategy** in which they commit themselves to develop their entrepreneurial potential through sustainable and credible actions. Against the backdrop of implementing the SBA principles, regions are asked to **set measurable targets** within the Europe 2020 horizon. Consultation of and cooperation with a broad range of stakeholders is an essential precondition to develop a lasting and beneficial overall entrepreneurial culture within a region, which should potentially create positive spill-over effects across the EU as a whole.

Applicants must demonstrate a real **political commitment to supporting SMEs and strengthening entrepreneurship** through a strategy officially endorsed by the regional assembly, the government of the region or other authorised political bodies.

How to apply?

Submit an application consisting of a **fact sheet** on your region, an outline of your **entrepreneurial strategy**, and an **action plan** including specific **communication actions** at the highest level. The application must be supported by a written declaration of political commitment. Application forms with detailed information on the assessment criteria are available on the EER web page: www.cor.europa.eu/eer

More Information:

eer-cdr@cor.europa.eu
www.cor.europa.eu/eer



Encouraging entrepreneurship
at local and regional level

EUROPEAN UNION



Committee of the Regions



with the support of:



Jacques Delors Building
 Rue Belliard/Belliardstraat, 101 _ 1040 Bruxelles/Brussel
 BELGIQUE/BELGIË
www.cor.europa.eu
 EER Secretariat e-mail: eer-cdr@cor.europa.eu

©Pictures: European Commission



European Entrepreneurial Region

The European Entrepreneurial Region (EER)

Encouraging entrepreneurship
at local and regional level

A label launched by
the Committee of the Regions

CDR_2138/09-2014/EN



What is the EER?

The **European Entrepreneurial Region (EER) Award** is an initiative of the Committee of the Regions identifying and rewarding EU regions with outstanding, future-oriented **entrepreneurial strategies**, regardless of their size, wealth or specific competences. The regions with the most visible, credible, forward-looking and promising political vision are granted the label "European Entrepreneurial Region" (EER) for a specific year.

Objectives

The aim of this initiative is twofold:

- to contribute to the **implementation of the Small Business Act (SBA)** in partnership;
- to demonstrate **optimal use of EU and other public funds** oriented towards the development of an entrepreneurial policy within the region.

Through the EER initiative, the Committee of the Regions (CoR) contributes to mainstreaming the SBA principles at regional and local level and to achieving the Europe 2020 goals. The EER label is an opportunity for local and regional actors to demonstrate the **crucial role SMEs and entrepreneurs play in strengthening the resilience of the economy**. By harnessing their potential to create growth and jobs, the EER label enables EU regions to advance further on the path out of the economic and financial crisis.

The EER scheme follows a **multi-level governance approach** by promoting regional EER communities, in which both regional and local actors are represented. For policy makers and stakeholders, the EER provides an opportunity to jointly develop strategies for the implementation of **SBA principles** such as "Think Small First", "Make public administrations responsive to SMEs' needs", and "Support SMEs to benefit from the growth of markets". The EER thus helps create entrepreneurial, dynamic and green regions throughout Europe.

Implementation

To date, fifteen European regions have been awarded the EER label. The implementation of the regions' EER action plans is monitored by the **EER jury**, which is chaired by the President of the Committee of the Regions. EER activities are reported back regularly to the Commission for Economic and Social Policy (ECOS) and the Bureau of the CoR. An **EER workshop** bringing together past and current EER regions is held each year during the **Open Days** in Brussels. The EER label stimulates the development of **joint initiatives between EER regions** during and beyond their EER year.

EER 2016 Call for applications

Following the launch of the EER 2016 edition at the SME Assembly in Naples, Italy, up to three regions will be awarded the EER label for the year 2016.

Schedule:

- 1 October 2014: Launch of the call for applications
- 16 March 2015: Deadline for applications
- June/July 2015: EER 2016 award ceremony

Eligibility – who can apply?

All EU territories below the level of the Member State that are endowed with competences at a political level and able to implement an overall entrepreneurial vision are welcome to participate. Within the EER scheme, "regions" are defined in the broadest sense, including communities, autonomous communities, departments, Länder, provinces, counties, metropolitan areas, large cities, as well as cross-border territories with legal personality such as EGTCs and Euroregions. In order to be eligible, the applicant must have the necessary **political competence** to implement a comprehensive strategy aimed at mainstreaming SBA principles.

EER Award winning Regions

EER of the year 2011	
Land Brandenburg – Germany	www.mwe.brandenburg.de
Kerry County – Ireland	www.ittralee.ie
Murcia Region – Spain	www.carm.es
EER of the year 2012	
Catalonia – Spain	www.gencat.cat
Helsinki-Uusimaa Region – Finland	www.uudenmaanliitto.fi
Trnava Self-Governing Region – Slovak Republic	www.trnava-vuc.sk
EER of the year 2013	
Nord-Pas de Calais – France	www.nordpasdecalais.fr
Southern Denmark	www.regionsyddanmark.dk
Styria – Austria	www.verwaltung.steiermark.at
EER of the year 2014	
Flanders – Belgium	www.agentschapondernemen.be
Marche Region – Italy	www.impresa.marche.it
North Brabant – Netherlands	www.brabant.nl
EER of the year 2015	
Lisbon – Portugal	www.cm-lisboa.pt
Northern Ireland – United Kingdom	www.nilga.org
Valencian Region – Spain	www.indi.gva.es