



**European Committee
of the Regions**

The Secretary-General

Brussels, the 14th of September 2023

DECISION No 105

**on the 2024 edition of the biennial EGTC Award "Building Europe across borders"-
appointment of the jury and award criteria**

Introduction

This decision implements the Bureau decision on the Revision of the EGTC Award¹ for the 2024 edition of the biennial award "Building Europe across borders" – Award for European Groupings of Territorial Cooperation (from here on, 'the award'), determining the jury members and the assessment guidelines.

The European Committee of the Regions launched the European biennial award named "Building Europe across borders" – Award for European Groupings of Territorial Cooperation to recognise and give visibility to the best practice of EGTCs in Europe.

The political action plan of the EGTC Platform for 2013² planned for the creation of the Award and the 2017 Bureau decision on Revision of the EGTC Awards³ defines the measures on how it is implemented.

In line with the CoR strategy to support the EGTCs, the objective of the award is to underline the role of these groupings as a lever for economic growth and job creation, environmental and nature protection, and as promoters of education, social inclusion, cultural heritage and European citizenship.

The award intends to recognize the concrete achievements of the existing EGTCs, demonstrating the EU added value of this instrument and promoting them as examples for other groupings or similar cross-border, interregional and transnational structures.

The award aims to promote the 'bottom-up' efforts made by local and regional authorities to address the diverse needs of their citizens. The award also intends to contribute towards ensuring better knowledge of EGTCs by the national, regional and local authorities in the EU, by the EU institutions and by the public.

¹ Bureau meeting of 9 October 2017, Item 9b (Modifying the Bureau decision CDR5779-2013).

² Bureau meeting of 10 April 2013, Item 7, ref: CdR 1335/2013.

³ Bureau meeting of 9 October 2017, Item 9b, regarding the Revision of the Award for the European Grouping of Territorial Cooperation.

THE SECRETARY-GENERAL OF THE EUROPEAN COMMITTEE OF THE REGIONS

HAVING REGARD TO Decision 397/2010 of the Bureau of the European Committee of the Regions of 26 January 2011, regarding the constitution of the Platform of European Groupings of Territorial Cooperation,

HAVING REGARD TO Decision of the Bureau of the European Committee of the Regions of 9 October 2017, Item 9b, regarding the Revision of the Award for the European Grouping of Territorial Cooperation,

HAS ADOPTED THIS DECISION:

1. The call for applications for the 2024 edition of the biennial award "Building Europe across borders" – Award for European Groupings of Territorial Cooperation (from now on, 'the award') shall be published on 7 January 2024 according to Annex 1. The deadline for submission of applications is 18 April 2024. Applications received outside this deadline will be considered as non- eligible.
2. In line with the CoR strategy to support the EGTCs, the objective of the award is to underline the role of these groupings as a lever for economic growth and job creation, environmental and nature protection, and as promoters of education, social inclusion, cultural heritage and European citizenship.
3. The members of the Jury of the 2024 edition of the award are appointed according to the list in Annex 2. The personal information of jury members shall be processed in accordance with European legislation on the protection of personal data.

The Jury meeting will take place in a hybrid mode during a CoR Plenary, and as such, Regulation No 0008/2017 will cover the travel and accommodation expenses incurred through CoR members' participation in the jury meeting.


For other jury members, CoR Regulation 0002/2018 shall apply.

A representative of the General Secretariat of the CoR shall assist the jury.

4. The guidelines of assessment of the awarding criteria for the 2024 edition of the award are established according to Annex 3.

This decision shall enter into force the day of its signature.

Done in Brussels, on the 14th of September 2023

A handwritten signature in blue ink, consisting of a series of connected loops and strokes, positioned above the title 'The Secretary-General'.

The Secretary-General

Annex 1.

2024 edition of the biennial Award 'Building Europe across Borders' - Award for European Groupings of Territorial Cooperation.

Call for applications

The Secretary-General of the European Committee of the Regions invites the European Groupings of Territorial Cooperation to submit their applications for the 2024 edition of the award "Building Europe across borders" – Award for EGTCs.

What is the Award for European Groupings of Territorial Cooperation?

The European Committee of the Regions launched the European award named "Building Europe Across Borders" to recognise and give visibility to the best practice of a European Grouping of Territorial Cooperation (EGTC) in Europe. This award is biennial, and 2024 marks its sixth edition.

In line with the CoR strategy to support the EGTCs, the objective of the award is to underline the role of these groupings as a lever for economic growth and job creation, environmental and nature protection, and as promoters of education, social inclusion, cultural heritage and European citizenship.

The award intends to recognize the concrete achievements of the existing EGTCs, showing the EU added value of this instrument and promoting them as examples for other groupings or similar cross-border, interregional and transnational structures.

The award aims to promote the 'bottom-up' efforts made by local and regional authorities to address the diverse needs of their citizens. The award also intends to contribute to better knowledge of the EGTCs by the national, regional and local authorities in the EU, by the EU institutions and by the general public.

Excerpt from the rules of procedure

According to the Decision of the Bureau of the European Committee of the Regions⁴, only EGTCs established at the latest a year before the call, and whose establishment has been

⁴ Bureau decision of 9 October 2017, Item 9b, regarding the Revision of the Award for the European Grouping of Territorial Cooperation.

notified to the European Committee of the Regions according to Art. 5 of the Regulation 1082/2006 are eligible to participate.

The award will recognize concrete actions and projects implemented by EGTCs on their territory. The candidate EGTC shall submit a project description in any of the EU languages related to the nominated action or project, which will be examined and evaluated by the Jury. The specific documents required will be defined in the call.

The jury will examine the applications and will exclude those that do not fulfil the criteria of eligibility, those that are not properly documented and those that are manifestly not related to the scope of action of the award. The jury will be entitled to require additional information and verification if needed. This information will be provided as soon as possible.

The jury will assess the applications according to the criteria of the call and to the general criteria of the award, and will decide upon the winner of the EGTC Award. The jury will have the right to decide about additional honourable mentions.

The EGTC award will be announced and delivered during the corresponding annual meeting of the EGTC Platform in the second half of 2024.

Non-awarded projects or actions of the EGTCs can be re-submitted to future calls only if those projects or actions continue to be implemented and continue to produce new impacts during the following years.

About the 2024 Call for interest

Who can apply?

Only EGTCs established before 1 January 2023 can participate.

The establishment of the EGTC must have been notified to the European Committee of the Regions according to the EGTC Regulation⁵.

How to apply?

The deadline for submission of applications is 17 April 2024. Applications received outside of this deadline will be considered as not eligible.

⁵ Article 5 of the Regulation (EC) 1082/2006 of the European Parliament and of the Council as amended by Regulation (EU) 1302/2013.

The application form, as well as further information, shall be available on the EGTC web page: <https://cor.europa.eu/en/our-work/pages/egtc.aspx>

The application will be sent to the CoR digitally using the official e-mail address of the applicant.

Award criteria

The award shall reward concrete actions and projects implemented by EGTCs and having impact in their respective territories at least during 2022 and/or 2023. The jury shall take into account the added value of the EGTC in implementing the action, its impact on the territory and its value as best practice.

The Award for European Groupings of Territorial Cooperation shall take into account measures and projects implemented by EGTCs, which contribute to the areas, listed below, and the application for the awards should include documents to support the following:

1. Impact and outcome of the action, based on measurable indicators, that will be assessed in proportion to the size of the EGTC and the actual needs of the territory;
2. Innovative approach, transnational dimension and European added value due to the fact that the measure is conceived and carried out by an EGTC;
3. Possible synergies with other EGTCs;
4. Implementation of the principle of multi-level governance and a bottom-up approach;
5. Sustainability and permanence of the measure, integration of the measures in a wider strategy for the territory;
6. Visibility among the public and the media of the EGTC territory;
7. Potential for transferability and replication as best practice;
8. Promotion of the European Union by the EGTC and its members.

Annex 2.

List of members of the Jury of the 2024 edition of the biennial Award 'Building Europe across Borders' - Award for European Groupings of Territorial Cooperation.

1. **Emil Boc**, Chair of the COTER Commission, as the chair of the Jury
2. **Anne Sander**, Member of the European Parliament
3. **Krzysztof Balon**, Member of the European Economic and Social Committee
4. **Martín Guillermo Ramírez**, Secretary General of the Association of European Border Regions
5. **Romina Kocina**, Director of EGTC GO (Winner of 2022 Award)
6. **Pavel Branda**, Chair of the CoR's Interregional Group on Cross-border Cooperation and Rapporteur on the Opinion "Cross-Border Public Services in the EU"
7. **Jean-Pierre Halkin**, European Commission, Directorate General for Regional and Urban Policy;
8. Representative of the Belgian Presidency of the Council of the European Union

In case a Jury member is not available to participate in the work of the Jury, they will be asked to delegate their position to a representative from their organisation.

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Annex 3.

Guidelines to implement the awarding criteria in the 2024 edition

1. Awarding procedure

1.1. Immediately after the deadline for applications has expired, the CoR shall send to each jury member, in English, all the application files received.

1.2. The assessment by the jury members shall consist of thoroughly evaluating the applications.

1.3. Each member of the jury shall be asked to give their ranking, with up to three EGTCs they consider to be most meriting, in order of priority. The ranking shall be given to the secretariat of the award two working days at the latest before the meeting at which the jury will take its decision. Should a jury member not be able to attend the meeting, his or her written opinion shall be taken into consideration.

1.4. Where appropriate, the CoR shall have the right to ask EGTC candidates to submit more detailed information should a jury member request this.

1.5. A suggested list shall be drawn up by the secretariat of the award, based on proposals received individually from each jury member and ranked in order of priority.

1.6. The jury shall assess the applications according to the criteria of the call and to the general criteria of the award and shall agree on one winner.

1.7. The chairperson shall try to find a consensus among the jury members based on the individual assessments. If consensus cannot be reached, the decision on the winning EGTC shall be made on the basis of a vote by a simple majority of the jury members present. In case of an equality of votes, the chairperson shall have a casting vote.

1.8. The jury shall have the right to decide about additional honourable mentions.

1.9. In the event that the jury votes on applications from the home region or city of one or more jury member, the principle of abstention shall apply (based on a simple declaration of conflict of interest).

1.10. The principle of confidentiality shall apply to the jury's deliberations and individual jury members shall not comment on its proceedings. This rule shall also apply to the chairperson in any public comments they make.