



Your vision – your strategy

Eligible candidates are invited to draft an **EER strategy**, in which they commit themselves to develop their entrepreneurial potential through sustainable and credible actions. Against the backdrop of implementing the **principles of the Small Business Act**, 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 entire EU.

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

How to apply?

Application forms and detailed information on the assessment criteria are available on the EER web page at www.cor.europa.eu/en/engage/Pages/european-entrepreneurial-region.aspx. Your application should include a **fact sheet** on your region, an outline of your **political vision**, a description of **governance** mechanisms, an **action plan**, as well as a **communication plan** with specific actions at the highest level. The application must be supported by a written declaration of political commitment.

More Information:

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with the support of:



European Economic and Social Committee



European Committee
of the Regions



European Entrepreneurial Region

The European Entrepreneurial Region Award

Encouraging entrepreneurship in
Europe's regions and cities

A label launched by
the European Committee of the Regions

European Committee of the Regions
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EER Award winning regions

What is the EER?

The **European Entrepreneurial Region (EER) award** is an initiative of the European Committee of the Regions (CoR) that identifies and rewards EU regions and cities with outstanding, future-oriented **entrepreneurial policy strategy**, regardless of their size, wealth or specific competences. The territories with the most visible, forward-looking and promising political vision are granted the EER label for a specific year.

Objectives

The EER initiative encourages the implementation of the **Small Business Act for Europe (SBA)** at regional and local level, through concrete and measurable actions that demonstrate an **optimal use of EU and other public funds** and contribute to achieving the Europe 2020 goals.

The EER label is an opportunity for local and regional actors to demonstrate how **SMEs and entrepreneurs can increase the resilience of their economy**. By harnessing their potential to create growth and jobs, the EER label enables EU regions to move further along the path of economic recovery.

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

Implementation

To date, twenty-seven EU regions and cities have been awarded the EER label. The implementation of their EER action plans is monitored by the **EER jury**, chaired by the CoR President. EER activities are reported back regularly to the CoR ECON Commission and Bureau. An **EER workshop** is held each year during the **European Week of Regions and Cities** in Brussels. The EER label stimulates the development of **joint initiatives between EER regions** during and beyond their EER year.

EER 2020 call for applications

Following the launch of the EER 2020 edition at the SME Assembly in Graz, Austria, up to three regions will be awarded the EER label for the year 2020.

Schedule:

- 19 November 2018: Launch of the call for applications
- 27 March 2019: Deadline for applications
- 26-27 June 2019: EER 2020 award ceremony

Eligibility – who can apply?

The EER label is open to any EU territory — below the level of the Member State — that is endowed with competences at a political level and able to implement an overall entrepreneurial vision. Each applicant's specific challenges and economic starting point are taken into account, in order to ensure that the label remains open to all territories committed to developing their entrepreneurial potential. Within the EER scheme, "regions" are defined in the broadest sense, including communities, autonomous communities, departments, Länder, provinces, counties, metropolitan areas, **cities**, as well as **cross-border territories** with legal personality.

EER of the year 2011

Land Brandenburg – Germany
 Kerry County – Ireland
 Murcia Region – Spain

EER of the year 2012

Catalonia – Spain
 Helsinki-Uusimaa Region – Finland
 Trnava Region – Slovak Republic

EER of the year 2013

Nord-Pas de Calais – France
 Southern Denmark
 Styria – Austria

EER of the year 2014

Flanders – Belgium
 Marche Region – Italy
 North Brabant – Netherlands

EER of the year 2015

Lisbon – Portugal
 Northern Ireland – United Kingdom
 Valencian Region – Spain

EER of the year 2016

Glasgow – United Kingdom
 Lombardia – Italy
 Małopolska – Poland

EER of the year 2017

Extremadura – Spain
 Lower Austria
 Western Greece

EER of the year 2018

Central Macedonia – Greece
 Ile-de-France – France
 Northern and Western Region, Ireland

EER of the year 2019

Asturias – Spain
 Gelderland – Netherlands
 Thessaly - Greece