



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 main EU policies on entrepreneurship and SMEs**, regions are asked to **set measurable targets** within a long-term 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/eer. 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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<https://www.cor.europa.eu/en/engage/Pages/european-entrepreneurial-region.aspx>

with the support of:



European Economic and Social Committee



European Committee
of the Regions



European Entrepreneurial Region

The European Entrepreneurial Region 2021

Entrepreneurship for a green
& sustainable future

A label launched by
the European Committee of the Regions

European Committee of the Regions
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EER Award winning regions

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

EER of the year 2020

Gothenburg – Sweden
 Gdansk & Pomorskie – Poland
 Navarra - Spain

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 strategies**. The territories with the most visible, forward-looking and promising political vision are granted the EER label for a specific year.

Objectives

The EER label helps regions and cities support SMEs and entrepreneurship by implementing the new **EU SME Strategy** at local and regional level, building on the continuity of the previous initiatives such as the Small Business Act (2009) and the Start-up and Scale-up Initiative (2016).

The EER label is an opportunity for local and regional actors to demonstrate how **SMEs and entrepreneurs can increase the resilience of their economy**, embracing today's challenges that will shape the world of tomorrow: demographic change, digitalisation and a transition to a sustainable and low-carbon economy.

The EER scheme follows a **multi-level governance** approach by promoting the development of entrepreneurial ecosystems, in which both regional and local actors are represented.

Implementation

To date, thirty 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. 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 2021 call for applications

The lead theme of the EER 2021 call for applications is **Entrepreneurship for a green & sustainable future**. As part of the new call for applications, up to three regions will be awarded the EER label for the year 2021. Among them, EER jury may award one thematic EER label in recognition for the application's commitment and link with the lead theme of the EER.

Schedule:

- 26 November 2019: Launch of the call for applications
- 15 April 2020: Deadline for applications
- 1 July 2020: EER 2021 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.