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:
eer-cdr@cor.europa.eu
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.

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 bi-annual EER 2021-2022 call for applications is Entrepreneurship for a sustainable recovery. As part of the new call for applications, the winners selected be awarded with the EER label for the years 2021 and 2022, in order to allow more time for the implementation of the strategies.

Schedule:
- 28 October 2020: Deadline for applications
- February 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.

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.

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  
Malopolska – Poland |
| EER of the year 2017 | Extremadura – Spain  
Lower Austria  
Western Greece |
| EER of the year 2018 | Central Macedonia – Greece  
Île-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 |