



**European Committee
of the Regions**



European Entrepreneurial Region (EER) Award 2023 Call for applications

The Secretary-General of the European Committee of the Regions (CoR) invites EU territories to submit their applications for the 2023 edition of the European Entrepreneurial Region (EER) Award.

In accordance with decision 2518/2019 of the CoR Bureau, the EER label is open to 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, regardless of their size, wealth or specific competences. It does not matter whether a territory has legislative competences or not. Each applicant's budget, specific structural or territorial challenges and economic starting point are taken into account by the EER jury.

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 policy strategy aimed at mainstreaming some or all SBA principles.

The theme of the EER 2023 campaign is *Entrepreneurship and resilient communities*, stressing the role of local and regional actors in supporting a bottom-up entrepreneurial culture to "build back better" after the Covid-19 pandemic.

Applications will be evaluated according to the criteria set out in Bureau decision 2518/2019.

1) Political vision and commitment

- The application demonstrates a future-oriented political vision for implementing the **EU SME Strategy**¹ in the territory, taking account, where appropriate, the key priorities of the **EU's strategic agenda 2019-2024**.
- The application demonstrates the commitment of the territory to implement its political vision taking account of the **rapidly changing economic landscape and key megatrends**, e.g. the Covid-19 pandemic, increased globalisation, digitalisation, the new industrial revolution, the changing nature of work, demographic changes and the transition to a circular and low carbon economy.

¹ [EU SME Strategy for a Sustainable and digital Europe](#)

- The application is based on a realistic assessment of the territory's strengths and weaknesses (**SWOT analysis**) and its direct competences with respect to the ten SBA principles. The context and **unique starting point** of each applicant are taken into account by the members of the jury.
- The political vision demonstrates a **clear added value of the EER award for the territory**, including for its own policy-making.
- The territorial EER objectives are embedded in a **regional development and/or S3 smart specialisation strategy** and are guided by the overarching framework of the Sustainable Development Goals;
- The competent political authorities demonstrate a **strong and credible commitment** to implementing the EER strategy in the territory.

2) Multilevel governance, partnership and cooperation

- The EER strategy is prepared and implemented following a **multilevel governance** approach involving both the lower levels (municipalities etc.) and, where possible, the national level.
- A broad range of **relevant actors** is involved in the design and implementation of the EER strategy, including economic and social partners, learning and research institutions, and civil society.
- There is a **demonstrated capacity and will** to exchange good practices with other regions and to develop specific cooperation initiatives with other EER regions.

3) Delivery

- The strategy includes **concrete actions** that contribute to the implementation of entrepreneurship policies that fall within the territory's competences through the EER scheme and does not merely synthesise existing policies.
- The implementation of EER actions follows the principles of **good governance** and includes effective **mechanisms for monitoring and follow-up**.
- The use of relevant **indicators**, which will follow the progress of the implementation.
- The application includes measures to ensure **optimal use of European Structural and Investment Funds** and other public funding.
- The application demonstrates how the EER actions will be **sustainable beyond the EER year**.
- The projected actions take the **social, environmental, innovative and durable growth** enhancing dimensions of SME policy into account whenever possible.

4) Communication

- The application includes an ambitious and convincing **communication plan** with specific actions at the **highest level** that are directed at all key target groups (including SMEs and other relevant actors).
- The EER label will be used to publicise the territory's policy both within the territory and at EU level.
- The planned communication actions will enhance the **visibility of the CoR and of the EU**.

The application form can be downloaded from the EER web page:

www.cor.europa.eu/eer.go

The deadline to submit applications is set at **29 March 2022**.

Applications not received within this deadline are deemed not eligible.



European Committee
of the Regions

Directorate for Legislative Works 2 -
ECON commission

Application Form



European Entrepreneurial Region

European Entrepreneurial Region Award 2023

Entrepreneurship and resilient communities

[Name of the territory]

1. Fact sheet

[Logo of the territory]

[Map of the territory]

General information

Name of the territory	
Date of application	
Political endorsement	<i>The application is supported by...</i>

Regional data

NUTS code	<i>[if applicable]</i>	GDP/inhabitant (year)	
Population		GDP growth rate (year)	
Area in km ²		Unemployment rate (year)	
Cohesion Policy category <i>(if applicable)</i>	<input type="checkbox"/> More developed region <input type="checkbox"/> Transition region <input type="checkbox"/> Less developed region		

Contact details

Contact person	
Postal address	
Telephone	
E-mail	
Website	

The territorial EER strategy in a nutshell

Please provide a brief synopsis of your EER strategy (including the added value of the EER award for your territory) in a maximum of 200 words.

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How did you learn about the EER 2023 call?	<input type="checkbox"/> CoR website	<input type="checkbox"/> E-mail announcement from the CoR
	<input type="checkbox"/> EWRC	<input type="checkbox"/> Announcement in CoR Plenary/Commission meeting
	<input type="checkbox"/> Other CoR event	<input type="checkbox"/> Info table at CoR Plenary
	<input type="checkbox"/> Other (please specify):	

Please keep the fact sheet to one page. Please use English only.

2. Political vision

Please describe in a **maximum of 2 pages** your political strategy to boost entrepreneurship, support start-ups, scale-ups and SME innovation in your territory.

*The description should contain a **SWOT analysis** (Strengths, Weaknesses, Opportunities, and Threats) providing a realistic assessment of the territory's entrepreneurial potential and specific challenges, including information on its **economic starting point**. It should present a broad outline of what the territory wants to achieve in the run-up to its EER year, during the EER year itself and beyond, as well as a presentation of the resources at its disposal to realize these objectives. The description should **focus on areas where tangible results are expected within the coming years** and indicate how the EER objectives are embedded in a broader regional development strategy. Where appropriate, links to relevant sources can be provided (e.g. S3 smart specialisation strategy, regional digitalisation strategy, etc.)*

3. Governance and partnership

Please describe in a **maximum of 1 page** how you will ensure efficient governance of the actions implemented in the context of your EER year.

*Please describe how different **governance levels** (local, regional and, if applicable, national) will be involved in the design, implementation and monitoring of your EER strategy. The description should also indicate how **stakeholders** (such as social and economic partners, learning and research institutions, and civil society) will participate.*

4. Action plan

Please describe in a **maximum of 8 pages** the concrete actions you will implement.

*Applicants are invited to describe the measures they intend to launch in the run-up to their EER year and during the EER year itself, in order to implement some or all of the principles of the **EU SME Strategy** in their territory, also taking account, where appropriate, of the key priorities of the **EU's strategic agenda 2019-2024**. Applicants are invited to demonstrate a commitment of the territory to implement its political vision taking account of the **rapidly changing economic landscape and key megatrends**, e.g. the impact of the Covid-19 crisis, digitalisation, the new industrial revolution and the transition to a circular and low carbon economy.*

*The description should present a selection of priorities and actions (or clusters of actions), providing their **owners, indicators and measurable targets**, as well as mechanisms for **monitoring and follow-up**, and demonstrate how the actions will be sustained beyond the EER year. The application should outline ongoing or foreseen actions of cooperation with other (EER or non-EER) regions.*

5. Communication plan

Please limit your description to a **maximum of 2 pages**.

*The communication plan should include a description of specific **communication actions at the highest level** (print publications, websites, audio-visual productions, public events, road-shows, workshops, press conferences, information campaigns etc.), indicating how **key target groups** will be reached both within the territory and at EU level. It should indicate how the **EER label** will be used to publicize the territory's policy and ensure the best possible **visibility of the EU and the European Committee of the Regions**.*

Please submit your application for the EER 2023 label in electronic format (Word document or PDF) in English to: eer-cdr@cor.europa.eu. Please include a **declaration of political commitment** from the competent political authority. Further letters of support may be added to your application. For a full list of **assessment criteria** applied by the jury, please consult the call for applications.

Deadline for applications: 29 March 2022