



## 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 SBA principles, regions are asked to **set measurable targets** within the Europe 2020 horizon. Working in partnership 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 information on the assessment criteria are available on the EER web page at [www.cor.europa.eu/eer](http://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](mailto:eer-cdr@cor.europa.eu)  
[www.cor.europa.eu/eer](http://www.cor.europa.eu/eer)



Encouraging entrepreneurship  
at local and regional level

EUROPEAN UNION



**Committee of the Regions**

with the support of:



European Committee of the Regions

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CDR\_3086/10-2016/EN



European Entrepreneurial Region

# The European Entrepreneurial Region

Encouraging entrepreneurship  
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A label launched by

EUROPEAN UNION



**Committee of the 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 strategies**, regardless of their size, wealth or specific competences. The territories with the most visible, credible, 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", "Make public administrations responsive to SMEs' needs", and "Support SMEs to benefit from the growth of markets". The EER thus helps create entrepreneurial, dynamic and green regions throughout Europe.

## Implementation

To date, twenty-one 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 Commission for Economic Policy (ECON) and the Bureau of the CoR. An **EER workshop**, bringing together past and current EER regions, 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 2018 Call for applications

Following the launch of the EER 2018 edition at the SME Assembly in Bratislava, up to three regions will be awarded the EER label for the year 2018.

#### Schedule:

- 23 November 2016: Launch of the call for applications
- 7 April 2017: Deadline for applications
- June/July 2017: EER 2018 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 both to territories that are already successful and to those that, while currently lagging behind, are committed to implementing the changes necessary to develop their entrepreneurial potential.

Within the EER scheme, "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 strategy aimed at mainstreaming SBA principles.

## EER Award winning Regions

EER of the year 2011	
Land Brandenburg – Germany	<a href="http://www.mwe.brandenburg.de">www.mwe.brandenburg.de</a>
Kerry County – Ireland	<a href="http://www.ittralee.ie">www.ittralee.ie</a>
Murcia Region – Spain	<a href="http://www.carm.es">www.carm.es</a>
EER of the year 2012	
Catalonia – Spain	<a href="http://www.gencat.cat">www.gencat.cat</a>
Helsinki-Uusimaa Region – Finland	<a href="http://www.uudenmaanliitto.fi">www.uudenmaanliitto.fi</a>
Trnava Self-Governing Region – Slovak Republic	<a href="http://www.trnava-vuc.sk">www.trnava-vuc.sk</a>
EER of the year 2013	
Nord-Pas de Calais – France	<a href="http://www.nordpasdecalais.fr">www.nordpasdecalais.fr</a>
Southern Denmark	<a href="http://www.regionsyddanmark.dk">www.regionsyddanmark.dk</a>
Styria – Austria	<a href="http://www.verwaltung.steiermark.at">www.verwaltung.steiermark.at</a>
EER of the year 2014	
Flanders – Belgium	<a href="http://www.agentschapondernemen.be">www.agentschapondernemen.be</a>
Marche Region – Italy	<a href="http://www.impresa.marche.it">www.impresa.marche.it</a>
North Brabant – Netherlands	<a href="http://www.brabant.nl">www.brabant.nl</a>
EER of the year 2015	
Lisbon – Portugal	<a href="http://www.cm-lisboa.pt">www.cm-lisboa.pt</a>
Northern Ireland – United Kingdom	<a href="http://www.nilga.org">www.nilga.org</a>
Valencian Region – Spain	<a href="http://www.indi.gva.es">www.indi.gva.es</a>
EER of the year 2016	
Glasgow – United Kingdom	<a href="http://www.glasgow.gov.uk">www.glasgow.gov.uk</a>
Lombardia – Italy	<a href="http://www.regione.lombardia.it">www.regione.lombardia.it</a>
Małopolska – Poland	<a href="http://www.malopolska.pl">www.malopolska.pl</a>
EER of the year 2017	
Extremadura – Spain	<a href="http://extremaduraempresarial.gobex.es">extremaduraempresarial.gobex.es</a>
Lower Austria	<a href="http://www.no.e.gv.at/Wirtschaftl">www.no.e.gv.at/Wirtschaftl</a>
Western Greece	<a href="http://www.pde.gov.gr">www.pde.gov.gr</a>