



European Committee
of the Regions

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. The application must be supported by a written declaration of political commitment.

More Information:

eer-cdr@cor.europa.eu

with the support of:



European Committee
of the Regions



European Entrepreneurial Region

European
Entrepreneurial Region
2027

Boosting local drivers of growth
for EU competitiveness

A label launched by
the European Committee of the Regions

European Committee of the Regions
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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. The EER calls for application take place every two years.

Objectives

The EER scheme follows a multi-level governance approach, helping regions and cities to support innovative entrepreneurship at local and regional level, building on the key policy priorities of the **EU Competitiveness Compass** and the **Clean Industrial Deal**.

EER 2027 call for applications

The lead theme of the EER 2027 call for applications is **Boosting local drivers of growth for EU competitiveness**, highlighting how local authorities can support SMEs through smart rules, strong ecosystems, and tailored support. Upon decision of the EER jury, up to three regions will be awarded the EER label for the year 2027.

Implementation

The implementation of the EER strategies is monitored by the **EER jury**, chaired by the President of the CoR ECON commission. The EER label stimulates the development of **joint initiatives between EER regions** during and beyond their EER year.

EER 2027 timetable

- 11 November 2025: Launch of the call for applications
- 19 March 2026: Deadline for applications
- June/July 2026: EER 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 Award winning regions

2011
Land Brandenburg – Germany Kerry County – Ireland Murcia Region – Spain
2012
Catalonia – Spain Helsinki-Uusimaa Region – Finland Trnava Region – Slovak Republic
2013
Nord-Pas de Calais – France Southern Denmark Styria – Austria
2014
Flanders – Belgium Marche Region – Italy North Brabant – Netherlands
2015
Lisbon – Portugal Northern Ireland – United Kingdom Valencian Region – Spain
2016
Glasgow – United Kingdom Lombardia – Italy Małopolska – Poland
2017
Extremadura – Spain Lower Austria Western Greece

2018
Central Macedonia – Greece Ile-de-France – France Northern and Western Region, Ireland
2019
Asturias – Spain Gelderland – Netherlands Thessaly – Greece
2020
Gothenburg – Sweden Gdansk & Pomorskie – Poland Navarra – Spain
2021-22
Castelo Branco – Portugal Gabrovo – Bulgaria Helsinki-Uusimaa – Finland Madrid Region – Spain Region Sud – France Silesia – Poland
2023
Barcelona – Spain Penela – Portugal Western Pomerania – Poland
2024
Friuli Giulia Venezia – Italy South Moravia & Brno, Czech Republic Famalicão – Portugal
2025
Galicia – Spain Krapina Zagorje – Croatia Mazovia – Poland