



FAQ - REGIOSTARS AWARDS COMPETITION 2017

1. What are the categories?

There are five RegioStars Award categories for 2017:

1. **Smart Specialisation for SME innovation**
2. **Energy Union: Climate action**
3. **Women Empowerment and Active Participation**
4. **Education and training**
5. **CityStars: Cities in Digital Transition**

A more detailed description of the categories and an indication of the projects that could be relevant for meeting the award criteria are presented in the guide for applicants.

2. When is the deadline?

The deadline for submitting applications is 10 April 2017, midnight

3. Is there a maximum number of applications?

There is maximum one application per category per managing authority (national or regional or territorial cooperation). If managing authority in charge of the 2007-2013 programme has ceased to exist or changed, the managing authority that is in charge of the 2014-2020 programme that succeeds to the 2007-2013 programme should endorse the application.

If the same authority is in charge of several programmes, there should be no more than 1 project presented per programme under the same award category. If successive programmes (2007-2013 and 2014-2020) cover the same territory and in essence the same themes, there should however be only 1 project per category presented for the entire timespan since 2007.

4. Who should submit the application?

Applications must be submitted by the relevant Managing Authority (national or regional or territorial cooperation) or by the project manager with the endorsement of the Managing Authority. In the case of direct submission by the project manager, an e-mail or a scanned document from the Managing Authority endorsing the project, including the name and e-mail address of the responsible head of the managing authority, has to be provided. An implementing body's endorsement is not sufficient.

5. In which language can I submit the application?

The application form is available in English, French and German and should preferably be completed in English, but can also be submitted in any other official EU language if necessary. You can get free of charge a machine translation into English via this web-page: https://ec.europa.eu/info/resources-partners/machine-translation-public-administrations-mtec_en

6. Can I submit a project that was proposed before for a RegioStars Award?

No, only projects which had not yet been proposed for a RegioStars Award can be submitted for the competition. If the proposed project is a "follow-up" project to a previously presented project, it has to be demonstrated that the new project is not merely a continuation, but a completely new project.

7. Can I submit a project which started before 2008?

No, this is not possible. The starting date of the project must be after 1 January 2008.

8. Can I submit a recent project?

Yes, also projects with a starting date after 1 January 2014 are eligible. However, the project should be sufficiently advanced (i.e. it can demonstrate progress in the achievement of the original objectives, which is unlikely to be the case if the project started less than 1 year ago).

9. By which fund should my project be co-financed?

The project should be co-financed by the European Regional Development Fund (ERDF)¹ (including Interreg), Cohesion Fund (CF)² and European Social Fund (ESF)³ or the Instrument for Pre-Accession Assistance (IPA)⁴. Also projects and initiatives that combine ERDF or CF with the other ESI Funds (ESF or EMFF or EAFRD) with directly managed EU funds (e.g. Horizon 2020, LIFE, COSME, CEF, EaSI, etc.) or with EFSI are welcome. Last, projects must have first received EU funds from ERDF, CF, ESF or IPA to be eligible, e.g. it is good if you submit a H2020 or a FP7 project taking place in a previously ERDF funded research infrastructure.

10. Can I send you my application by email?

No. To help you prepare your application, we can provide you with the application form in Word format. However, applications have to be submitted directly via the RegioStars online platform: www.regiostarsawards.eu

11. Do I have to complete my application in one step? Can I save my application and complete it at a later date?

You can come back to complete or correct your application at any time before 10 April 2017 23:59:59 CET as long as you have not yet clicked on 'submit'.

12. How does the jury evaluation process look like?

Applications will be examined by an independent jury taking into account the eligibility and award criteria. Only applications which satisfy the first phase of the evaluation (eligibility) will be admitted to the second phase (pre-selection of finalists/award by the jury).

Please have a look at the guide for applicants in the sections related to the eligibility criteria and award criteria.

¹ http://ec.europa.eu/regional_policy/en/funding/erdf/

² http://ec.europa.eu/regional_policy/en/funding/cohesion-fund/

³ http://ec.europa.eu/regional_policy/en/funding/social-fund/

⁴ http://ec.europa.eu/regional_policy/en/funding/ipa/

13. What happens if my project gets selected as a finalist?

All finalists are invited to the Award Ceremony in Brussels on 10 October 2017 and will receive a certificate and a medal. They will also be included in a brochure, published by the European Commission as well as in the online database of best practices on the InfoRegio website.⁵ This database is used when selecting projects for Commissioners visits, interviews, good practice examples in magazines or press articles, communication campaigns on social media, etc.

14. What happens if my project gets selected as a RegioStars winner?

All winners (one per category) are invited to the Award Ceremony in Brussels on 10 October 2017. The Project Manager and a representative from the Managing Authority will receive a RegioStars trophy and a certificate from the European Commissioner for Regional Policy, Corina Crețu, and the President of the RegioStars jury and will be invited to present their project during a press-conference. For each winner a short video is also produced, which will be unveiled during the ceremony and published online, followed by a promotional campaign.

15. When will the RegioStars Awards ceremony take place?

This year's RegioStars award ceremony will take place on Tuesday 10 October during the 2017 European Week of Regions and Cities⁶.

⁵ http://ec.europa.eu/regional_policy/en/projects

⁶ www.regions-and-cities.europa.eu