



ΕΛΛΗΝΙΚΗ ΔΗΜΟΚΡΑΤΙΑ
ΥΠΟΥΡΓΕΙΟ ΕΣΩΤΕΡΙΚΩΝ
ΓΕΝ. Δ/ΝΣΗ ΟΙΚΟΝΟΜΙΚΩΝ
ΥΠΗΡΕΣΙΩΝ
Δ/ΝΣΗ ΟΙΚΟΝΟΜΙΚΗΣ ΚΑΙ
ΑΝΑΠΤΥΞΙΑΚΗΣ ΠΟΛΙΤΙΚΗΣ
ΤΟΠΙΚΗΣ ΑΥΤΟΔΙΟΙΚΗΣΗΣ
ΤΜΗΜΑ ΣΧΕΣΕΩΝ ΜΕ ΔΙΕΘΝΕΙΣ
ΟΡΓΑΝΙΣΜΟΥΣ

Αθήνα, 15 Ιανουαρίου 2013
Α.Π. 1571

Ταχ. Δ/ση : Σταδίου 27
Ταχ. Κώδικας: 10183, Αθήνα
Πληροφορίες: Δρ.Αντώνιος Καρβούνης
Τηλέφωνο: 213 136 4975
Φαξ: 210 37 44 713
E-mail: a.karvounis@ypes.gr

Προς:
Δήμους και Περιφέρειες της Χώρας

ΘΕΜΑ: Βραβεία για τις Καινοτόμες Περιφέρειες και Πόλεις της Ευρώπης (RegioStars 2014)

Για 7^η συνεχή χρονιά (από το 2008) η Ευρωπαϊκή Επιτροπή προκηρύσσει βραβεία για καινοτόμα σχέδια και δράσεις των δήμων και περιφερειών της Ευρώπης.

Τα ετήσια βραβεία «RegioStars» υπογραμμίζουν τα πιο καινοτόμα έργα που έχουν στηριχθεί από την ευρωπαϊκή περιφερειακή πολιτική. Για το 2014 έχουν επιλεγεί οι κάτωθι πέντε κατηγορίες για τις οποίες οι ενδιαφερόμενοι φορείς μπορούν να υποβάλλουν αίτηση:

- Ευφυής μεγέθυνση: Καινοτόμα σχέδια των μικρομεσαίων επιχειρήσεων.
- Βιώσιμη μεγέθυνση: πράσινη ανάπτυξη και απασχόληση μέσω της βιοοικονομίας.
- Περιεκτική μεγέθυνση: Δημιουργία θέσεων απασχόλησης για τη νέα γενιά.
- Κατηγορία για Πόλεις Αριστείας: Επενδυτικά έργα σε αιεφόρες δημόσιες μεταφορές.
- Μεγάλα Επενδυτικά Έργα: Ενεργειακή αποδοτικότητα και Οικονομία χαμηλής κατανάλωσης άνθρακα.

Τα γενικά κριτήρια επιλεξιμότητας είναι τα εξής:

- α) έγκαιρη αποστολή των αιτήσεων, όχι αργότερα από την **19^η Απριλίου** τ.ε.
- β) το σχέδιο πρέπει να έχει συγχρηματοδοτηθεί από το ΕΤΠΑ, το ΕΚΤ, το Ταμείο Συνοχής ή το IPA μετά την 1η Ιανουαρίου του 2000
- γ) οι αιτήσεις θα πρέπει να υποβληθούν/ή υποστηριχθούν από τις αρμόδιες εθνικές ή περιφερειακές διαχειριστικές αρχές
- δ) οι αιτήσεις θα πρέπει να συμπληρωθούν και να υποβληθούν κατά προτίμηση στην αγγλική γλώσσα.

ε) Η περιγραφή του σχεδίου θα πρέπει να είναι συναφής με την επιλεγόμενη κατηγορία.

Οι ενδιαφερόμενοι ΟΤΑ μπορούν να λάβουν περισσότερες πληροφορίες, το πλήρες κείμενο του οδηγού συμπλήρωσης των προτάσεων και τα έντυπα των αιτήσεων από το σχετικό ιστότοπο της Ευρωπαϊκής Επιτροπής (http://ec.europa.eu/regional_policy/cooperate/regions_for_economic_change/regiostars_14_en.cfm?exp=1#anchor1), ενώ τις αιτήσεις (μέσω των αρμόδιων διαχειριστικών αρχών) αλλά και τα ερωτήματά τους μπορούν να αποστείλουν στην εξής ηλεκτρονική διεύθυνση:

REGIO-STARs@ec.europa.eu

Παραμένουμε στη διάθεσή σας για περαιτέρω πληροφορίες και διευκρινίσεις.

Η ΔΙΕΥΘΥΝΤΡΙΑ

Ο. ΣΤΑΥΡΟΠΟΥΛΟΥ

ΚΟΙΝΟΠΟΙΗΣΗ:

1) Κ.Ε.Δ.Ε.

Ακαδημίας 65 και Γενναδίου 8
Τ.Κ.106 78 Αθήνα

2) Ε.Ν.Π.Ε.

Μεσογείων 15
Τ.Κ. 11526 Αθήνα

3) ΕΟΕΣ ΑΜΦΙΚΤΥΟΝΙΑ

Βύρωνος 29
Τ.Κ. 10558 ΑΘΗΝΑ

4) ΕΟΕΣ ΕΥΞΕΙΝΗ ΠΟΛΗ

Θεσσαλίας 80, 1036 74 Αχαρνές

5) ΠΕΔ της Χώρας

6)Ελληνική Εταιρεία Τοπικής

Ανάπτυξης & Αυτοδιοίκησης (ΕΕΤΑΑ ΑΕ.),

Μυλλέρου 73-77, 104 36, ΑΘΗΝΑ

7) Ινστιτούτο Τοπικής Αυτοδιοίκησης (ΙΤΑ),

Αθηνάς 60, 105 51 Αθήνα

8) EUROPE DIRECT – ΘΕΣΣΑΛΟΝΙΚΗΣ- Γεωργική και Βιοτεχνική Σχολή Θεσσαλονίκης

Μαρίνου Αντύπα 12, 551 02 ΘΕΣΣΑΛΟΝΙΚΗ (υπόψιν κ. Ευ. Βέργου)

9) EUROPE DIRECT – ΚΑΡΔΙΤΣΑΣ- Αναπτυξιακή Καρδίτσας (ΑΝ.ΚΑ Α.Ε.)

Μ. Αλεξάνδρου 34, 43100, Καρδίτσα (υπόψιν κ. Θ. Μπαλτά)

10) EUROPE DIRECT – ΗΠΕΙΡΟΥ- Αγροτική Συνεταιριστική Ηπείρου – Κέρκυρας (Α.Σ.Η.Κ. ΑΕ)

Χαρίλαου Τρικούπη 38, Ιωάννινα (υπόψιν κ. Δημ. Γκόλα)

11) EUROPE DIRECT -ΚΕΡΚΥΡΑΣ - Περιφέρεια Ιονίων Νήσων

Σαμάρα 13, 49100 Κέρκυρα (υπόψιν κας Π. Γεωργίου)

- 12) EUROPE DIRECT – ΡΟΔΟΥ- Αναπτυξιακή Δωδεκανήσου Α.Ε.**
28 ης Οκτωβρίου 72, 851 00 ΡΟΔΟΣ (υπόψιν κας Φ.Παπασάββα)
- 13) EUROPE DIRECT – ΚΑΛΑΜΑΤΑΣ- Επιμελητήριο Μεσσηνίας**
Πλατεία 23ης Μαρτίου, 24 100 ΚΑΛΑΜΑΤΑ (υπόψιν κας Αν. Βασιλοπούλου)
- 14) EUROPE DIRECT Λαμίας -Δήμος Λαμιέων και Περιφέρεια Στερεάς Ελλάδας -** Λεωνίδα 9-11, 35100 ΛΑΜΙΑ (υπόψιν κας Α. Μυλωνά)
- 15) EUROPE DIRECT – ΚΡΗΤΗΣ- Περιφέρεια Κρήτης, Πλ. Ελευθερίας,**
712 01 ΗΡΑΚΛΕΙΟ (υπόψιν κας. Β. Μαδούλκα)
- 16) EUROPE DIRECT – ΕΡΤ- Ελληνική Ραδιοφωνία Τηλεόραση**
Λεωφόρος Μεσογείων 432, Αθήνα 15342 (υπόψιν κ. Π. Βασιλόπουλου)
- 17) EUROPE DIRECT – ΑΤΤΙΚΗΣ- Δήμος Αθηναίων, Αθηνάς 63, 10552**
Αθήνα (υπόψιν κας Ο.Κακριδά)
- 18) EUROPE DIRECT - ΑΘΗΝΑ (ΕΛΙΑΜΕΠ)**
Βασ. Σοφίας 49, 106 76 ΑΘΗΝΑ (υπόψιν κας Ελ. Φωκά)
- 19) EUROPE DIRECT - Περιφερειακό Ταμείο Ανάπτυξης Ανατολικής Μακεδονίας Θράκης – EDIC Κομοτηνής (Κομοτηνή), Ν. Τσανακλή 15, 691 00 ΚΟΜΟΤΗΝΗ (υπόψιν κας Λ. Σαλτσίδου)**
- 20) EUROPE DIRECT – ΠΑΤΡΑΣ- Περιφέρεια Δυτικής Ελλάδας Δ/ση Αναπτυξιακού Προγραμματισμού**
ΝΕΟ Πατρών-Αθηνών 32 & Αμερικής, 26441 ΠΑΤΡΑ (υπόψιν κ.Δ. Καρβέλη)

Εσωτερική Διανομή:

- Γραφείο κ. Υπουργού
- Γραφείο κ. Αναπληρωτή Υπουργού
- Γραφείο κ. Γενικού Γραμματέα
- Γραφείο κ. Γενικού Διευθυντή Τοπικής Αυτοδιοίκησης
- Γραφείο κ. Γενικού Διευθυντή Οικονομικών Υπηρεσιών
- Δ/ση Οργάνωσης και Λειτουργίας ΟΤΑ
- Δ/ση Μηχανοργάνωσης και Η.Ε.Σ. (με την παράκληση να αναρτηθεί στο site του Υπουργείου, στη διαδρομή: Το Υπουργείο-Πολιτικές και Δράσεις-Διεθνή και Ευρωπαϊκά Θέματα ΟΤΑ-Προγράμματα & Συνεργασίες- Ενημερώσεις- Ανακοινώσεις)
- Δ/ση Οικονομικής και Αναπτυξιακής Πολιτικής Τοπικής Αυτοδιοίκησης
- (α) Τμήμα Αναπτυξιακών Προγραμμάτων
- (β) Τμήμα Σχέσεων με Διεθνείς Οργανισμούς (εις διπλούν)

REGIOSTARS 2014

The awards for innovative projects supported by EU cohesion policy 7th Year

Guide for applicants

(Application forms are provided separately)

1. GENERAL RULES	2
1.1 Award Categories	2
1.2 Applicants	2
1.3 How to submit an application form	2
1.4 Deadline	2
1.5 Contact information	2
2. ELIGIBILITY CRITERIA	3
2.1. General eligibility criteria	3
3. AWARD CRITERIA	3
4. SUPPORTING GUIDANCE ON THE AWARD CATEGORIES	4
<i>CATEGORY 1: SMART GROWTH: SME innovation</i>	4
<i>CATEGORY 2: SUSTAINABLE GROWTH: Green growth and jobs through Bio-economy</i>	5
<i>CATEGORY 3: INCLUSIVE GROWTH: Creating jobs for the young generation</i>	6
<i>CATEGORY 4: CITY STAR: Investment projects in sustainable urban public transport</i>	7
<i>CATEGORY 5: Major Investment Projects: Energy efficiency and the low carbon economy</i>	8

REGIOSTARS 2014

1. GENERAL RULES

1.1 Award Categories

There are five RegioStars Award categories for 2014:

Cat. 1 Smart Growth: SME innovation

Cat. 2 Sustainable Growth: Green growth and jobs through Bio-economy

Cat. 3 Inclusive Growth: Creating jobs for the young generation

Cat. 4 CityStar: Investment projects in sustainable urban public transport

Cat. 5 Major Investment Projects: Energy efficiency and the low carbon economy

1.2 Applicants

The 273 NUTS-2 regions¹ in Europe are eligible for EU structural and Cohesion Fund support from a variety of national, regional or cooperation programmes. Either the Member State or the most relevant structural funds managing authority² for the national or regional programmes – for the period 2000-2006 or 2007-2013 - may submit a maximum of two entries per region (taking all the periods and the programmes together): **one** in category 1, 2 or 3 and **one** in category 4 or 5. The designated managing authority of each programme can therefore submit a maximum of two applications.

1.3 How to submit an application form

Applications should be submitted by or with the endorsement the Managing authority (national or regional) responsible for the co-financing decision on behalf of the project leader / developer.

Applications must be sent to the following e-mail address: REGIO-STARs@ec.europa.eu.

Municipalities or cities wishing to submit an EU co-funded project should seek the endorsement of their relevant managing authority².

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).

See below for further details.

1.4 Deadline

Applications should be sent no later than **19 April 2013**.

1.5 Contact information

All enquiries should be sent by e-mail to this address: REGIO-STARs@ec.europa.eu

¹ NUTS is the "[Nomenclature of Statistical Territorial Units](#)" a single, coherent system for dividing up the European Union's territory in order to produce regional statistics.

² To find your structural funds managing authority check on RegioAtlas: http://ec.europa.eu/regional_policy/atlas2007/index_en.htm In some cases national Managing Authorities delegate responsibility to regional bodies ("Delegated Managing Authorities"). In such cases the delegated Managing Authority may apply.

REGIOSTARS 2014

2. ELIGIBILITY CRITERIA

2.1. General eligibility criteria

- a) Applications should be sent no later than **19 April 2013** to the following e-mail address: REGIO-STARS@ec.europa.eu
- b) The project has been co-financed under the European Regional Development Fund, the Cohesion Fund, the European Social Fund or the Instrument for Pre-Accession Assistance (IPA) after 1 January 2000.
- c) Applications must be submitted or endorsed by an EU structural funds managing authority² for a regional or national programme. Managing authorities are free to use whatever selection process they deem appropriate to choose their candidates.
- d) Applications must be made by completing the relevant entry form and be submitted preferably in English - where not possible, in French or German. This will allow the applications to be processed more rapidly. (The project title should be max 20 characters).
- e) The project description must be clearly related to the selected category.
- f) The project is finalised or is sufficiently advanced (i.e. it can demonstrate progress in the achievement of the original objectives in the region, locality or urban area).

2.2. Specific eligibility criteria for category 5

Only Major Investment Projects of total investment of **above 50 Mio euro** are eligible under this category.

3. AWARD CRITERIA

- a) **Innovative character of the project**
- b) **Impact (or expected impact) of the project in terms of initial objectives**
- c) - **Expected sustainability of the project under cat. 1 to 4:** Evidence could include development towards self-financing or demonstration that the project has or will be part of a succession of projects sequentially funded by other EU financial instruments;
- **Expected sustainability of the project under cat. 5:** Evidence could include development towards self-financing.
- d) **Project's results in enhancing local, regional and interregional partnerships:** Evidence could include demonstration that the project was inspired by another region's project/programme or shared with another region.

4. SUPPORTING GUIDANCE ON THE AWARD CATEGORIES

A general description of the categories and an indication of the projects that could be relevant for meeting the award criteria are presented below.

CATEGORY 1: SMART GROWTH: SME innovation

SMEs are the backbone of the EU economy: they represent 99% of all firms in the EU and provide 2/3 of all private sector jobs. The competitiveness and growth of SMEs is thus crucial for the recovery and re-launch of the EU economy and for generating more and better jobs in Europe. SMEs are however increasingly exposed to global competition, suffer under problems in accessing finance, networks, talented staff and new markets. Innovation – including new business models, exploitation of key enabling technologies, user-centred innovation, new processes, marketing strategies and organisational models, etc. - is the solution for this. However, only about 35% of SMEs innovate³ and those that innovate do not necessarily grow and create jobs in Europe.⁴

The innovation potential of SME is however very high and very varied, ranging from high-tech start-ups based on radical innovations, to micro-multinationals with revolutionary business models and intensive value-chain networking, to traditional manufacturing or service firms' incremental innovation through adopting new technologies or cross-fertilisation with innovative business services, designers that can lead to the emergence of new sectors and eventually to an economic transformation. Also the location of an SME plays a role: firms in urban and peri-urban areas face different challenges and have different potentials than SMEs in remote, sparsely populated or less developed regions. Therefore also the needs of SMEs in terms of innovation support and business environment are very divergent. Many SMEs therefore do not find the appropriate support for implementing their innovative ideas.

The award will therefore go to projects that helped unleashing the creative and innovative potential of SMEs. Projects proposed in this category will ideally include schemes or measures that could inspire other public authorities to design a policy mix that fosters SME innovation in the context of the forthcoming research and innovation strategies for smart specialisation.

Project could for instance address the following issues:

- Creating new linkages in and across clusters, value-chains, networks, etc. to facilitate the emergence of new sectors and place-based economic transformation;
- Fostering the take up of new forms of innovation beyond technology, such as co-creation, design innovation and crowd-sourcing, in particular in traditional sectors;
- Innovative financial support for SMEs, for instance with integrated incubation and coaching services;
- Facilitate market access and take-up of innovations by SMEs.

³ See Community Innovation Survey and Innovation Union Scoreboard: <http://www.proinno-europe.eu/inno-metrics/page/57-innovators>

⁴ The new Europe 2020 headline indicator for innovation will be the share of innovative fast-growing firms (see Innovation Union flagship)

REGIOSTARS 2014

CATEGORY 2: SUSTAINABLE GROWTH: Green growth and jobs through Bio-economy

In the framework of the 'Europe 2020' strategy, in particular its flagships on a 'Innovation Union' and on 'A resource-efficient Europe' the development of a 'bio-economy' is highlighted as an important element to reach smart and sustainable growth in Europe.

Deploying a bio-economy in Europe holds the potential of maintaining and creating economic growth and jobs in rural, coastal and industrial areas, reducing fossil fuel dependence and improving the economic and environmental sustainability of primary production and processing industries.

The Communication on "*Innovating for Sustainable Growth: A Bio-economy for Europe*"⁵ develops an Action Plan paving the way to a more innovative, resource efficient and competitive society that reconciles food security with the sustainable use of renewable resources for industrial purposes, while ensuring environmental protection.

The implementation of this strategy is linked to programmes and projects designed and put into practice at national and regional level by making use of cohesion and structural funds. Indeed cohesion policy already provides numerous opportunities for local and regional authorities, communities and stakeholders to implement projects in the bio-economy sector, thereby creating jobs and growth through sustainable investments in innovations, approaches and technologies based on biological materials and bio-waste.

Examples of the projects that could be submitted under this category include:

- actions and programmes supporting reduction of food waste and biodegradable waste, waste treatment and reuse thereby increasing competitiveness
- actions for developing innovative low carbon technologies and logistical solutions in rural context in relation to conversion of biomass and sustainable use of biofuels
- innovative actions related to use of bioenergy, mitigating the effects of climate change and serving the adaptation process to climate change
- programmes aiming at improving food packaging methods with innovative bio-based solutions
- support programmes to build capacities and skills or providing training and promoting transfer of knowledge related to the production of bio-based materials and products;
- programmes and actions aiming at improving commercialisation and marketing of bio-based products;
- awareness raising programmes and specialised information programmes to civil society stakeholders on the possible use of new biological materials and products in everyday life, thereby demonstrating in a tangible manner the sustainable usage of results produced by bio-economy related research;
- support structures and business support services, clusters aimed at improving SMEs' access to information on bio-economy related investments and new technologies (including IPR advice and support, advice on labelling or standardisation).

⁵ COM(2012) 60 final

CATEGORY 3: INCLUSIVE GROWTH: Creating jobs for the young generation

Youth unemployment has increased dramatically as a result of the economic crisis. Across the EU it has reached an average of more than 22% but is as high as 50% in some Member States. Young people are twice as likely to be unemployed as the adult population.

Faced with such unacceptably high levels, the Commission has been mobilising its policies and instruments and presented amongst other the "Youth Opportunities Initiative"⁶ setting out measures to drive down youth unemployment. This built on the "Youth on the Move" flagship initiative⁷ flagship initiative previously launched as part of the Europe 2020 strategy and on the experience of action funded through the European Social Fund.

The Commission also proposed a pilot action to help the eight Member States with the highest levels of youth unemployment to re-allocate some of their EU structural funds allocations to tackle youth unemployment. The aim is to mobilise EU funding still available in the 2007-2013 programming period to support job opportunities for young people and to facilitate the access of small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs) to finance, since SMEs are a major source of job creation across the EU.

In this category of the 2014 RegioStars projects should be presented which were supported by the cohesion policy funds (both the European Social Fund but also the European Regional Development Fund) and helped concretely to fight youth unemployment and to create jobs for the young generation.

Examples of the projects that could be submitted under this category include:

- Support to SMEs (access to finance - grants and financial instruments, support services, entrepreneurship, take-up of ICT and eco-innovations, measures to improve the business environment including clusters and networking) which employ particularly youngsters or which have special programmes offering vocational training for young job-seekers,
- Support to start-ups of young entrepreneurs,
- Support programmes for youngsters to build capacities and skills or providing vocational training matching with the needs of the labour market,
- Education, training and work experience support for young people who have left school early without any qualification or vocational training.

⁶ <http://ec.europa.eu/social/main.jsp?catId=1006>

⁷ <http://ec.europa.eu/social/main.jsp?catId=950&furtherNews=yes&langId=nl&newsId=888>

CATEGORY 4: CITY STAR: Investment projects in sustainable urban public transport

Urban transport is an important priority across Europe for two main reasons. It is a key element in determining the attractiveness of cities to citizens and businesses while at the same time urban mobility accounts for 40% of all CO₂ emissions of road transport because of the large dependence on oil based fuels. Cities in all Member States face the challenge of developing integrated strategies to address many linked issues, such as urban congestion, pollution, accessibility, road safety and transport infrastructures that do not meet the needs of all groups. The White Paper on Transport (2011)⁸ emphasises the role of urban transport.

Development of large scale projects could be submitted which:

- Comprise important investments in tram systems, metros,
- Involve investments in inter modal hubs, etc.

REGIOSTARS 2014

CATEGORY 5: Major Investment Projects: Energy efficiency and the low carbon economy

Buildings represent around 40% of CO₂ emissions in the EU. To achieve the EU's 2020 goals in reducing CO₂ emissions it is therefore essential to improve the energy efficiency in this sector. To speed up the investments it is necessary to spread the experience gained in the various approaches promoting energy efficiency in buildings. Regarding their impact, the proposed projects will be assessed in terms of the leverage achieved for CP funding, the number of buildings improved/m, or other relevant indicators.

Large scale regional, multiregional or national projects or schemes with an investment volume of more than 50 Mio € could be submitted that include:

- Schemes raising home owners or businesses awareness of the advantages of investing in energy efficiency and / or providing incentives to such investment and use innovative financing instruments,
- Projects or schemes targeting energy efficiency improvements in public buildings,
- Projects or schemes aimed at improving energy efficiency in public housing or housing projects for disadvantaged groups.