



European
Commission

European Enterprise Promotion Awards

2017

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Start. Scale. Spread your wings.

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Foreword

The European Enterprise Promotion Awards (EEPAs) have just concluded their 11th annual edition. The longevity and continued success of this programme is testament to the fact that fresh and exciting innovations in the promotion of enterprise across the EU continues to thrive. Recognising, sharing and celebrating the diverse achievements of EEPA projects remains a valuable endeavour.



The Awards celebrate diverse projects from across Europe that have the promotion and facilitation of entrepreneurship and entrepreneurial endeavours at the centre of their activities. These projects come from within various industries, age groups and countries, and all have tangible results that translate into new European companies and more importantly jobs. Their work forms a key part in the regeneration of Europe's economy and in the stimulation of SME growth. It is with great pleasure that I look forward to learning about their innovative actions and being inspired by what they do.

The awards themselves and the celebration of the projects would not be possible without the work of many dedicated individuals, which is why I would like to personally thank the National Coordinators, without whom the national competitions would not take place. You play an important role and help make EEPA possible and facilitate the dialogue around SMEs and sector partnerships across Europe. I would also like to thank all the participating organisations for their hard work this year.

Now comes the time to present the 2017 EEPA winners. This year, 56 projects were selected by their countries to compete at European level, with the 6 winners, 9 runners-up and 3 special mentions representing an outstanding effort across Europe. I hope their ideas, creativity and hunger to succeed will inspire you to do more for entrepreneurs and small businesses. By shining a light on these good works and learning from their success, we will become better equipped to help Europe's entrepreneurs start up, scale up, spread their wings and take flight.

Elżbieta Bieńkowska

Commissioner for Internal Market,
Industry, Entrepreneurship and SMEs

Small businesses driving European growth

SMEs are independent companies with fewer than 250 employees. They provide two out of three private sector jobs and are responsible for 85% of new jobs created. SMEs account for 66.6% of total employment and 56.8% of gross value added (GVA).

Latest research shows that SMEs continue to form the bedrock of the European economy, with some 23.85 million companies employing 93 million people; and accounting for slightly more than 99.8% of all enterprises.

The biggest share of enterprise is represented by micro companies with fewer than ten employees – 93.1%.

The Small Business Act for Europe

Adopted in June 2008, the Small Business Act for Europe (SBA) reflects the Commission's recognition of the central role that SMEs play in the EU economy. It sets out a comprehensive SME policy framework for the EU and its Member States.

The aim of the Act is to improve the overall approach to entrepreneurship and permanently embed the 'Think Small First' principle in policy-making – from regulation to public service. The Act promotes SME growth by helping them tackle problems which hamper their development, particularly focusing on initiatives that help small businesses by:

- Cutting red tape
- Providing access to finance
- Increasing access to markets

Finally, the Act aims to deliver a longer-term shift in attitudes – creating a greater awareness of the role entrepreneurs play in society and encouraging and inspiring potential new entrepreneurs.

These four key areas of the SBA continue to be priorities for the coming years. In addition, the need to address the shortage of skilled workers has become a fifth priority.

A Spin-Off: The European Enterprise Promotion Awards

The European Enterprise Promotion Awards support the aims of the Small Business Act by recognising innovation and rewarding the success of public bodies and public-private partnerships in promoting enterprise and entrepreneurship at a national, regional and local level.

SME Envoys

As part of the review of the SBA, the Commission invited Member States to nominate a national SME Envoy to complement the role of the European Commission's SME Envoy. The current EU SME Envoy is Ms Elżbieta Bieńkowska, Member of the European Commission for Internal Market, Industry, Entrepreneurship and SMEs, who chairs the network. The group of SME Envoys makes up an advisory group that promotes SME friendly regulation and policy making in all EU countries.

To find out more about SME Envoys, visit:

http://ec.europa.eu/growth/smes/business-friendly-environment/small-business-act/sme-envoys_en

What does it mean to become an EEPA Winner?

Winning a European Enterprise Promotion Award is just the beginning of an organisation or project's journey from national star to European glory. These EEPA winners from last year explain the impact of being recognised at the European level and what winning this award means to them.

2016

The winning of the award immediately impacted our work. We saw the difference definitely in terms of political impact. Upon our return, we began receiving several visits from different parties and politicians, including the minister of finance and her team, who came for some insight and points from our project after we were first nominated. This increased political interest has led to us being more respected, and being invited to various city council groups which in turn has increased our local impact and overall our role in national political development.

Daniela Ölmunger, Entrepreneurial West Hisingen, Sweden
Winner: Grand Jury Prize 2016



“Winning has given us room to manoeuvre.”



“The preparation for EEPA stimulates evaluation, strengthens partnership, and gives visibility, all of which can only help strengthen your project.”

Winning the award helped us not only externally, the increased visibility helped with publicity and will also help us in the future, but also internally. Internally the win helped to solidify our relationships with partners and make us a stronger network. It also resulted in overall better general knowledge of the objectives and better understanding of the technicalities of the project. The response was great and made us feel like we have an increased sense of responsibility, now we just have to maintain and increase the impact of the project. Whilst it was fantastic to represent our project, it was also very satisfying to be able to represent Portugal.

It was a surprise to win the award, considering the quality of other applications. However, we felt that we had a very good chance in this competition, since we were strongly convinced of the quality of our application. Just being included in the shortlist gave us a sense of achievement! Winning the competition was very important to us, and it was an extraordinary feeling: a reward for the work done, and concrete proof that we are on the right track.

Leader SME, Portugal
Winner: Improving The Business Environment 2016

Winning the award was fantastic!

During the awards ceremony, we realised that there were only three projects announced in our category and that the Swedish project was no longer there, which made us feel a little more hopeful about winning. We were confident that we had shown the Jury the effect our project had on entrepreneurs, and also its potential for scaling up on a national level. When we were announced as the winners it was a big acknowledgment of our hard work and made us think about our project on a European level.

Before EEPA we were already developing our international expansion, but winning EEPA has certainly helped accelerate that process.

Rob Gringhuis, The Rotterdam Business Case
Winner: Responsible and Inclusive Entrepreneurship 2016



“Being successful is having a good enterprise and being a good entrepreneur.”



The Jury

Each year, an independent high-level European Jury takes on the difficult task of selecting the best entries in each category. This year's Jury includes representatives from government, business and academia as well as representatives from Estonia and Malta, as part of their EU presidencies during 2017.

There are also two permanent representatives, one from DG Internal Market, Industry, Entrepreneurship and SMEs and one from the Committee of the Regions. The winner of the previous year's Grand Jury Prize is also invited to sit on the Jury. The 2017 Jury is composed of:



Ms Kristin Schreiber

DG for Internal Market, Industry, Entrepreneurship & SMEs

Kristin joined the European Commission in 1990 where she has held a variety of positions. She was appointed Director of the COSME Programme and SME policy in 2015 having served as Director for Governance of the Single Market and International Affairs, first in DG MARKT and then in DG GROW since February 2014.

Previously, she was Head of Cabinet of Employment Commissioner, Vladimir Špidla, Deputy Head of Cabinet of Internal Market Commissioner, Michel Barnier and a member of the Cabinets of Enlargement Commissioner, Günter Verheugen.

She also served as Head of Unit for International Affairs in DG Employment and as an administrator in different DG's.

“Only with strong SMEs, and a rising entrepreneurial spirit, will there be a sustained recovery in the EU. And the EEPA winners truly make a difference on the ground by creating locally the right conditions for small businesses to flourish.”



Prof. Thomas M. Cooney

Professor in Entrepreneurship, Dublin Institute of Technology

Thomas is Professor of Entrepreneurship at the Dublin Institute of Technology (Ireland) and Visiting Professor at the University of Turku (Finland). He is also Academic Director of the Institute for Minority Entrepreneurship, a Board Member of Startup Ireland and works in a supportive capacity with a number of businesses.

As an Expert in Entrepreneurship Policy, he has worked with the Irish Government, the European Commission, OECD, the European Training Foundation and other international organisations. He has published widely on the topic of entrepreneurship and full details of his career can be found at www.thomascooney.com.

“My strongest piece of advice is to learn from past winners by benchmarking what you do against their success stories. The ultimate ambition is not to win an award but to improve the capacity of people to successfully start and grow a business, and learning from the experiences of others is a wonderful opportunity to enhance your initiative.”



Thomas Wobben

Committee of the Regions

After studying Economics and Politics, Thomas worked for voluntary sector organisations. In 1993 he joined the European policy services of the Land Saxony-Anhalt and in 1995 he began working in the Liaison Office of Saxony-Anhalt in Brussels taking over as Director in 2000. From 2009 to 2012, Mr Wobben was the representative of the German Länder in the Council Working Group on Competitiveness. Between 2007 and 2012, he held various positions in European bodies,

such as the High-Level Group on the Competitiveness of the European Chemicals Industry, and the European Citizen Action Service. Since March 2012 he has been Director for Horizontal Policies and Networks and later on for legislative works at the Committee of the Regions. His responsibilities include monitoring the Europe 2020 strategy, relations with the OECD and Eurostat, and prospective works of the CoR.

“For me, the SME Assembly (and EEPA) are a unique opportunity to meet and exchange ideas with the principal European actors in the area of SME and entrepreneurship development: policy-makers from the European, national, regional and local levels, stakeholders, academics, and of course entrepreneurs.”



Jeffrey Bugeja

Director of Policy Development and Programme Implementation Directorate, Malta

Jeffrey has been employed with the Public Service for the last ten years. He started his career within the Paying Agency, which administers EU Funds for Agri Sector. Following a promotion, he was relocated within the Ministry for Finance, also responsible for EU Funds related to SMEs. In 2013 the officer was promoted to Director, Policy Development within the Ministry for the Economy, Investment and Small Businesses.

His responsibilities are related to Entrepreneurship, EU Funds, European Affairs and also monitoring the Small Business Act principles and the Small Business Act (Malta). Before and during Malta's EU Presidency, Jeffrey lead the preparatory meetings and the coordinating team who organised a number of conferences namely the Business Transfer Conference and the Innovative Enterprise week. Jeffrey is a delegate on the Competitiveness High Level Group and also Sherpa for the SME Envoy meeting.

“The ease by which a project can be replicated in another country, region or industry sector is a big factor for me as a Jury member. You often find that the simple concepts can be most effective and can be transferred across cultures and languages.”



Karen Boers

Co-founder and Managing Director of Startups.be

Karen is co-founder and Managing Director of Startups.be, which brings hundreds of startups together with incubators, accelerators, investors and public actors in a local startup ecosystem. She also runs the European Startup Network, which aims to help create a truly pan-European bottom-up startup ecosystem.

She has 14 years of extensive experience in community development as well as design and implementation of large marketing campaigns (incl. conferences and mass events). She has headed the marketing team at iMinds (formerly IBBT) for eight years, putting the software innovation institute on the European map and on the radar of many innovation actors across the world.

“I am looking out for projects that have made a real impact on entrepreneurs' lives, either by helping to change the rules of the game in the local ecosystem or by providing entrepreneurs with better access to (national and/or international) customers, financing and talent.”



The Jury



Viljar Lubi

Deputy Secretary General, Ministry of Economic Affairs and Communication, Estonia

After receiving his first degree in economics (honors) from the University of Tartu, Estonia, he acquired his masters degree in political science from the University of Tallinn, Estonia. He has also complemented his academic background at the University of Sussex, UK, and at the Estonian School of Diplomacy.

Although V. Lubi started his working life in the private sector (insurance business), he soon entered the Civil Service, at first as an official in the Ministry of Finance. From 1999 onwards he has worked at the Foreign Ministry. He was an economic counsellor at Estonia's embassy in London and later in Washington. He became also a director of the general affairs division in the EU department. His responsibilities there included EU's institutional settlement, EU enlargement and also some EU's regional policy aspects like the Northern Dimension and the Baltic Sea Strategy.

In January 2013 he resumed his diplomatic career and worked in New Delhi as the first residing Estonian ambassador to India.

After 3 years he returned to Estonia to be seconded again to the Ministry of Economic Affairs and Communications as deputy secretary general for economic development. He co-ordinates the development, implementation and monitoring of development plans affecting economic development. Viljar also organizes cooperation between the Ministry's units and other institutions concerning the development plans. He will also ensure the consistency of the plans with national development plans.



The best project needs to have the capacity to achieve greatness and to create something innovative with limited resources will always stand out for me.



Daniela Ölmunger

Development Manager, Entrepreneurial West Hisingen, Sweden

Daniela is the representative of Entrepreneurial West Hisingen, the Grand Jury prize winner of 2016 edition.

Daniela has a Master in European Political Affairs from Gothenburg University and has, during the last 5 years worked mainly as a project manager for projects funded by the European Regional Development Fund for the city of Gothenburg in Sweden. In her role as a project manager she managed Entrepreneurial West Hisingen a project focused on start-ups in a socially challenged district in Gothenburg and now since January 2016, she manages the One Stop Future Shop working with

start-ups and business development primarily focusing on female, young and newly arrived entrepreneurs. Daniela has a background in project design and has a position with the city of Gothenburg, West Hisingen district, as a development manager for external financing since 2012. After graduating in 2006 she worked for the University college of Borås, the University and the municipality of Lund and the municipalities of Lerum and Mölndal with project coordination and development, international exchanges, citizen dialogue and student housing development.



Just being a national contestant is a great achievement and means that a lot of hard and inspiring work has been put in, and that should not be forgotten. If you are a runner up, my advice is to get back in the ring for next time.



Understanding the judging process

Individual countries were invited to conduct national competitions to determine the best projects to represent their nation. Hundreds of projects competed in these national competitions in 2017 for a chance to enter the European Enterprise Promotion Awards. Countries were allowed to nominate a maximum of two entries (in different categories) to the European competition. Each Jury member reads and assesses every entry against defined criteria covering: originality and feasibility, impact on the economy, improvement of stakeholder relations and transferability. The Jury then meets to discuss their top entries in each category, before agreeing on winners, runners up and any special mentions.

The shortlist is published shortly after the jury meeting and the winners are announced during the Awards Ceremony at the SME Assembly.



Grand Jury Prize – Winner

A special prize awarded to the entrepreneurial initiative considered the most creative and inspiring in Europe.



Innofest Stichting Innofest, Netherlands



Innofest works with eight summer festivals in northern Netherlands as living labs for innovation, and provides a safe environment for entrepreneurs to test their prototypes before bringing them onto the market.

Innofest sees festivals as temporary mini societies, with their own set of challenges in the areas of water, food, logistics, energy and waste, among others. As contained environments, festivals offer a safe space where product testing results are measurable. This is important for reducing innovation failure rates, therefore lessening the potential loss of innovative ideas that simply required extra support and development. During the festivals, entrepreneurs are offered on-site support along with networking opportunities and follow-up guidance.

Innofest operates in an area with many SMEs that is currently lagging behind the rest of the Netherlands in innovation, and sees festivals as an opportunity

to develop the capacity of the region and provide support to its many budding entrepreneurs. The objectives of the project include the strengthening of the innovation climate as an incentive for the region's entrepreneurs, thus ensuring talent retention which will ultimately lead to job creation. The project has already successfully set up 36 innovation projects, and in the space of two years helped around 60 entrepreneurs and 100 students test their concepts at festivals. This innovative project uses the existing structure of the festivals to further the opportunities of SMEs, innovators and entrepreneurs and give them the necessary support to successfully launch their ideas on to the market.

“ Our objective is to improve the climate of innovation in the northern Netherlands, by quickly testing prototypes, encouraging talented future entrepreneurs and connecting young talent with festivals. ”

Contact: Ms Anna van Nunen, Director
Email: anna@innofest.co

Further information:
www.innofest.co

Promoting the Entrepreneurial Spirit - Winner

Recognises initiatives at national, regional or local level that promote an entrepreneurial mindset especially among young people and women.

Enterprise Village MTÜ Ettevõtlusküla, Estonia



Enterprise Village promotes education about economics, entrepreneurship and finance for children between 4 to 18 years old, and their teachers. Through roleplay games on both IT platforms and in person, players are placed in a simulation where they must divide into groups and run their own companies. Trained facilitators take players through different tasks that require creativity, cooperation, entrepreneurial and financial skills, and are there to encourage players to experiment within the simulation. Different adapted games exist for varying ages and difficulty levels, so as to focus on age-appropriate knowledge and skill sets.

“Our long-term dream is that every year around 40,000 students will experience some sort of Enterprise Village roleplay game and program in Estonia.”

Contact: Mehis Pärn
Email: mehis@ettevotluskyla.ee
Further information: www.ettevotluskyla.ee



Runners-up



Pikkuyrittäjät – “Mini company program for primary school” Nuori Yrittäjyys ry (JA Finland)

The Pikkuyrittäjät programme is a free 18-hour study programme designed for primary schools to encourage children to establish their own mini companies. During the programme, the children develop a business idea, company name, logo, slogan, elevator speech, web pages and finally sell their self-developed products or services to real customers with real money. The children are encouraged to be brave, try new things and discover their own strengths through the program led by specially trained primary school teachers. The program is transferable across schools, and requires only some additional training for the leading teachers.

“We help children find their own strengths and learn new things. We offer children memorable experiences of success, with which we show that anything can be achieved by trying hard enough!”

Contact: Mr Mikko Nurminen, Founder
Email: mikko@pikkuyrittajat.fi
Further information: www.pikkuyrittajat.fi



Start'Up Lycée VISIONARI, France

Start'Up Lycée is an entrepreneurial programme focused on secondary and higher education establishments. It aims to give all students, and youth in general an equal chance at following an entrepreneurial career path. Specifically designed programmes, varying from 2 days to 3 years in length, develop necessary entrepreneurial skills such as creativity, team work and digital know-how. Programme participants experience design training, team-building and expert assessment, and have access to specialised coaching. To date Start'Up Lycée has organised 51 educational events, which have benefitted over 3 700 young people, and aimed to facilitate implementation of specialised and tailor-made entrepreneurial programmes in different establishments.

“We started Start'up Lycée because we believe innovation and entrepreneurship should be accessible to all, regardless of your age, sex or background. Thanks to European Enterprise Promotion Awards, we will be able to spread our vision and meet new partners to build a stronger European Union.”

Contact: Mrs Elise Le Roy, Chef de Projet
Email: elise@visionari.fr
Further information: www.startuplycee.fr/



Investing in Entrepreneurial Skills – Winner

Recognises initiatives at national, regional or local level to improve entrepreneurial and managerial skills.

Business Generator Inova, Sweden



The Business Generator focuses on bringing in external expert support systems for SMEs to add value to their business concepts. Few such support systems currently exist for SMEs as many consider bringing in external expertise as too time-consuming. Each Business Generator is staffed with four individuals: two men and two women, each with different profiles and skills, who have all experienced growth.

Each team covers: analytical capability, financial expertise, empathy, customer benefits, development process management, creativity and innovation. Acting as coaches, Generator staff ask the challenging questions from an outsider perspective that result in new decisions and tangible change.

“There is great potential for improvement when it comes to developing knowledge about creating economic growth. Fortunately, the debate is changing slowly and surely, but EEPA 2017 and growing awareness about SMEs have arrived at the right time! It's very inspiring and the time feels right.”

Contact: Mrs Anette Rhudin, Project Manager
Email: anette.rhudin@tillvaxtmotor.nu
Further information: www.tillvaxtmotor.nu



Runners-up



techsisters digigirls <3

Tech Sisters & Digigirls MTÜ Kogukond Tech Sisters, Estonia

Tech Sisters is an Estonian non-profit run by women working in IT and/or studying IT with the mission to increase women's digital literacy and interest in IT. This is done through organising meetups for women in tech and running entry-level coding and tech workshops for women. Workshops specifically for teenagers promoting IT activities are also organised with the participation of inspirational IT female role models. By inspiring, encouraging and educating women/girls about IT, Tech Sisters aims to bring more women into IT and create a more diverse environment in the tech field.

“Through our work we hope to increase the digital literacy of women, create a more diverse environment in IT sector and enhance the community of women working in IT / studying IT.”

Contact: Miss Mari-Liis Lind, Member of the board
Email: Mariliis.lind@gmail.com
Further information: www.techsisters.org



UNIVERSITY OF LATVIA
STUDENT BUSINESS INCUBATOR

University of Latvia Student Business Incubator Latvijas Universitāte, Latvia

The University of Latvia (UL) Student Business Incubator has assisted students of the UL and other higher education establishments of Latvia to start and develop an enterprise during their studies. The business incubator provides free premises and office equipment, offers free counselling sessions, help from mentors and industry professionals in business development as well as individual and group coaching sessions in cooperation with the Coaching School of Riga. The incubator also organises entrepreneurship events to encourage youth entrepreneurship, during which participants go through an accelerated incubation process, meet active professionals and receive feedback on their ideas.

“Our objective is to become a key player among the European University business incubators by enabling every student to become an outstanding entrepreneur.”

Contact: Mr Mikus Losāns
Email: mikus.losans@lu.lv
Further information: www.biznesainkubators.lu.lv

Improving the Business Environment – Winner

Recognises innovative policies at national, regional or local level which promote enterprise startup and growth, simplified legislative and administrative procedures for businesses and implementing the “Think Small First” principle in favour of small and medium-sized enterprises.

Reempresa

Fundación Cecot Innovación, Spain



Reempresa pioneers the innovative concept of a trading market for SMEs in Spain, which helps ‘re-entrepreneurs’ i.e. buyers take ownership of an existing SME. The business transfer scheme preserves existing businesses and jobs, thereby ensuring continuity, and promotes economic growth. It also promotes awareness about public-private collaboration and the benefits of standardising business transfer facilitation procedures.

Since 2011, Reempresa has successfully transferred more than 1,230 businesses, preserved more than 3,500 direct jobs and generated more than EUR 56.8 million in investment.

This one-stop-shop platform brings retiring business owners, or others who choose to sell their business on, together with young entrepreneurs that wish to acquire a business without having to start from zero.

“Winning the EEPA Award helps us raise more awareness among potential business owners and entrepreneurs about the importance to facilitate business transfer and to work for SMEs and VSEs across Europe.”

Contact: Mr Albert Colomer, Director
Email: Albert.colomer@reempresa.org
Further information: www.reempresa.org



Runners-up



Innovation to Company Vienna Chamber of Commerce, Austria

‘Innovation to Company’, the project from the Austrian Federal Economic Chamber in Vienna, brings together innovative and flexible start-ups with established enterprises with resources and market positioning. Through active networking and matchmaking, start-ups help with the development of innovation and solving of challenges that an established enterprise may face. In turn the established enterprises offer resources and market placement, making the cooperation mutually beneficial. To date, 16 enterprises (2015-2017) and 150 start-ups (2017 not yet included) have participated, and 2.5 million EUR in potential profit opportunities for start-ups has been generated.

“We hope that by strengthening the cooperation between enterprises and startups we can help generate new business sectors.”

Contact: Mrs Regina Plas, Director
Email: regina.plas@wko.at
Further information: www.wko.at/wien



Progetto Manifattura – Polo Meccatronica Trentino Sviluppo SpA, Italy

Manufacturing Project – The Green Innovation Factory is transforming the historic Rovereto factory into an industrial innovation centre. The centre covers eco-sustainable construction, renewable energy, technologies for environmental management and monitoring, natural resources, and the circular economy. Within the project exists the Pole of Mechatronics, which involves public bodies, private individuals, and trade associations. It is an innovative hub serving a widespread production chain that involves the qualified participation of companies ranging from automotive, robotics, sensors, industrial automation, up to biomedical industries. It houses productive spaces, technological workshops, and school buildings.

“The main effort we make is related to understanding the needs of entrepreneurs and making sure that they find a way to grow their businesses both soundly and resiliently.”

Contact: Mrs Michele Tosi
Email: michele.tosi@trentinosviluppo.it
Further information: www.trentinosviluppo.it



Supporting the Internationalisation of Business – Winner

Recognises policies and initiatives at national, regional or local level that encourage enterprises, particularly small and medium-sized businesses, to benefit more from the opportunities offered by markets both inside and outside of the European Union.

Program Internationalization 2015 – 2020 ecoplus International GmbH, Austria



With the programme “Internationalisation 2015 – 2020”, ecoplus International supports Lower Austrian SMEs in entering foreign markets, from the initial providing of information to realising first export deals or establishing branches, with free and customised services. The aim is to support SMEs in their international business activities and to increase their success in foreign markets. In addition the “High Potential Programme” supports selected enterprises with high internationalisation potential in their development to become “Export champions”. This is a new approach for supporting enterprises and start-ups, in their growth strategies and their international expansion, all in keeping with the concept of “start-up to scale-up”.

“Winning has motivated us to keep moving and to improve constantly in order to boost the internationalisation of our small and medium sized companies. We also hope that our recognition will inspire other EU regions but also allow us to be inspired by their activities and help us learn from each other.”

Contact: Dr Gabriele Forgues, Department Head Internationalization
Email: g.forgues@ecoplus.at
Further information: www.ecointernational.at



Runners-up



Madeira Vintners

CAF – Cooperativa Agrícola do Funchal, CRL em parceria com DRA – Direção Regional de Agricultura da Região Autónoma da Madeira, Portugal

The all-female team at MADEIRA VINTNERS have spent the last 5 years working to establish their Madeira wine brand, after the last firm which was founded over 80 years ago. The all-female team is not only nationally innovative, but unusual across the sector. The first harvest in 2012 helped with Madeiran grape distribution, producing added value for Madeiran grape producers and vineyards. As an isolated EU territory, the success of this venture, which saw more than 100% increase in sales in 2016-2017, is important for the island's agribusiness sector, which is a key source of revenue after tourism.

“The Madeira Vintners team is all female in a traditionally male industry, not only are we seeing results from our hard work but we are also an example of progression and equality in a traditional industry.”

Contact: Mrs Gabriela Pestana
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Business West International Trade Centre Business West, United Kingdom

The International Trade Centre at Business West has transformed international trade services, combining regional, national and international expertise, funding and resources. It aligns its Chamber of Commerce objectives with UK and Pan European policy, combining private sector expertise from third party providers and the Banking Sector to benefit businesses and boost export sales in the South West of England. The centre now employs over 100 trade advisers and provides a range of digital solutions and support. To date it has engaged with 5,800 exporters, assisted 2010 companies with overseas sales to the value of £430 million and created 3,800 jobs.

“Instead of pushing our existing products and services we stopped to listen to our customers and delivered new innovations that made the international buying and selling process easier for all.”

Contact: Mr Andre Ofomah
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Further information: www.businesswest.co.uk

Responsible and Inclusive Entrepreneurship – Winner

Recognises national, regional or local initiatives by authorities or public/private partnerships which promote corporate social responsibility among small and medium-sized enterprises including efforts to promote entrepreneurship among disadvantaged groups such as the unemployed, especially long term unemployed, legal migrants, disabled people or people from ethnic minorities considered the most creative and inspiring in Europe.

Adie Microfranchise Solidaire (AMS) Adie (Association pour le Droit à l'Initiative Economique), France



Adie (Association for Economic Rights Initiatives) is an association which helps people without access to conventional banking services start-up their business, thanks to their initiatives like Microfranchise Solidaire, the first operator of microcredit in France. By 2016, it had supported 19,431 people and enabled the creation and development of 14,366 businesses. Additionally more than 200 entrepreneurs have already joined a microfranchise network and benefitted from the support of a partner in order to set up and develop their activities.



We aim to develop and co-create micro-franchise networks so as to support and finance individual entrepreneurs and potentially create up to 3000 jobs over the next 10 years.



Contact: Ms Marine Viala
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Further information: www.adie.org/



Runner-up



MUNDAR: Change your world – young entrepreneurship contest ACM IP, Gestor do Programa Escolhas em parceria com a Fundação Calouste Gulbenkian, Portugal

The Mundar Change your World – Young Entrepreneurship Contest is a platform that offers children and young people the chance to create, present and experiment with their ideas. Created in 2013, it gives young innovators between the ages of 16 and 30 a chance to have their ideas funded and implemented. To date 77 youth ideas with personal, community and social benefits have been implemented, allowing youth to have a real impact without one of the biggest hurdles, financial support, getting in the way.



The most important 'ingredients' for supporting entrepreneurs are to start with what is there, to think about what resources are available and not only those which are not, and then build on those foundations to see what can be done together as a team and a community.



Contact: Mr Pedro Calado
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Further information: www.programaescolhas.pt/



Special Mentions

Listen Up Online Platform for Equal Access Listen Up Foundation, Bulgaria



The Listen Up online platform aims to change the way deaf people are perceived as disabled and incapacitated, and promote social inclusivity for the Bulgarian deaf community. Through providing services like Sign Language Video Relay Services and Speech-to-Text Reporting in Education, the platform promotes inclusivity and partners with local institutions and municipalities to provide equal access services. The objective is to expand the project services, e.g. real time subtitles, and spread the project across the Balkans and other Eastern European countries, to create long-lasting social impact and unite the normally segregated hearing and deaf communities.

“ We want to provide equal opportunities for deaf people in Bulgaria by providing specialised services for overcoming the communication barrier and to facilitate their social inclusion.”

Contact: Mr Ashod Derandonyan
Email: ashod@zaslushaise.bg
Further information: zaslushaise.bg/en/



Import Promotion Desk (IPD) sequa gGmbH, Germany



The Import Promotion Desk (IPD) opens the door to SMEs from selected developing and emerging countries to access the European market and develop trade capacities. The aim is to maintain the sustained import of particular products from partner countries, whilst maintaining high quality, social and environmental standards. The IPD brings together European importers, who can optimise procurement and increase product diversity, and exporters as trade partners. Consequently partner country export capacities are strengthened through job creation and income increase. IPD is currently active in the following countries: Egypt, Ethiopia, Indonesia, Kyrgyzstan, Columbia, Nepal, Peru and Tunisia.

“ Our project is about giving SMEs from selected partner countries the chance to export into Germany, whilst maintaining high quality, social and environmental standards.”

Contact: Dr Julia Hoffmann
Email: hoffmann@importpromotiondesk.de
Further information: www.importpromotiondesk.de

The Maltese Business Story Initiative Malta Employers' Association (MEA), Malta



The Maltese Business Story Initiative is an online tool for start-ups, micros, SMEs and professionals in the business sector, to guide them through different issues they may encounter when running a business, and improve their management skills. The tool is linked to 91 specially produced television programmes, each dealing with a specific issue. More than 300 business related experts contributed to these programmes creating around 2,300 minutes of visual entrepreneurial material. On average the programmes have 20,000 weekly viewers, a significant number considering the total Maltese population of 450,000.

“ We believe that through this project we are empowering start-ups, SMEs, and business successors by providing them with more entrepreneurial and managerial skills, so that they can tackle and resolve business related issues in the workplace.”

Contact: Mr Joseph Farrugia, Director General
Email: jfarr@maltaemployers.com
Further information: www.maltaemployers.com



The 2018 European Enterprise Promotion Awards will be launched in early 2018.

The awards ceremony will take place during the 2018 SME Assembly in Austria under the Austrian Presidency of the Council of the European Union. Please check the EEPA website, Facebook page and Twitter for more details.

2017 National Winners

Promoting the Entrepreneurial Spirit

CROATIA	BUDI UZOR®/BE THE ROLE MODEL™ www.tera.hr	TERA Tehnopolis d.o.o.
CYPRUS	The Future in our hands: Creating European entrepreneurs euopreneurs.wordpress.com/	23rd Primary School of Limassol, Cyprus
CZECH REPUBLIC	Jaudelam.cz www.jaudelam.cz	Jaudelam.cz
DENMARK	The Danish Foundation for Entrepreneurship as a national player responsible for the implementation of entrepreneurship in educational programmes www.ffe-ye.dk	Fonden for Entreprenørskab
ESTONIA	Enterprise Village www.ettevotluskyla.ee	MTÜ Ettevõtlusküla
FINLAND	Pikkuyrittäjät – Mini company program for primary school www.pikkuyrittajat.fi	Nuori Yrittäjyys ry (JA Finland)
FRANCE	Start'Up Lycée www.startuplycee.fr/	VISIONARI
GERMANY	BIRTH - Business Innovation Responsibility and Technology www.hansenberg.de	Internatsschule Schloss Hansenberg, Geisenheim
GREECE	PATRAS Innovation Quest (Patras IQ) http://research.upatras.gr/	University of Patra
HUNGARY	Startup Campus Program http://startupcampus.hu/en/rolunk/	Enterprise Hungary
ITALY	3D 4-Uman Technology is not uniquely human www.3d4uman.it/	LEGA COOP. Calabria in partenariato con 3D 4-Uman
LATVIA	Information campaign "Support for entrepreneurs" www.em.gov.lv	Ministry of Economics
LITHUANIA	KTU "Startup Space" https://startupspace.lt/	National Center for Innovation and Business
ROMANIA	Doing innovative business based on advanced research and public communication www.mhtc.ro	Magurele High Tech Cluster - MHTC
SERBIA	Caravan of Youth Entrepreneurship www.pks.rs/	Chamber of Commerce and Industry of Serbia
SLOVAKIA	I will do it.sk www.jaspravim.sk/	GAMIS, s.r.o.
TURKEY	Supporting Entrepreneurship, Skills and Future of Children and Youth Programme www.istka.org.tr/	Istanbul Development Agency
UK	Made in North Tyneside www.businessfactorynt.co.uk	North Tyneside Council



2017 National Winners

Investing in Entrepreneurial Skills

BELGIUM	VentureLab - Student Entrepreneurship for Change www.venturelab.be	Université de Liège
BULGARIA	Implement a Strategy for local development in the municipality of Ardino and implementation process of the Strategy for Community-led local development in the municipalities of Ardino and Djebel www.mig-ardino.bg/	Local action group - Ardino
CYPRUS	Sound Labor Relations, Contemporary Enterprises www.oeb.org.cy	Federation of Employers and Industrialists (OEB)
ESTONIA	ITech Sisters & Digigirls www.techsisters.org	MTÜ Kogukond Tech Sisters
IRELAND	A Multidisciplinary Approach to Creating an Entrepreneurial Mindset Amongst Engineers: The DkIT BSc (Hons) in Engineering Entrepreneurship www.dkit.ie	Dundalk Institute of Technology
LATVIA	University of Latvia Student Business Incubator www.biznesainkubators.lu.lv/	Latvijas Universitāte
LITHUANIA	Youth Entrepreneurship Education Program - ATVERK www.linpra.lt	Lithuanian Engineering Industry Association LINPRA
MALTA	The Maltese Business Story Initiative www.maltaemployers.com	Malta Employers' Association (MEA)
SWEDEN	Business Generator www.tillvaxtmotor.nu	Inova

Improving the Business Environment

AUSTRIA	Innovation to Company www.wko.at/wien	Vienna Chamber of Commerce
CZECH REPUBLIC	Třebíč is lively www.trebic.cz	The Town of Třebíč
IRELAND	Mayo Ideas Lab www.mayoideasweek.ie	WestBIC
ITALY	Progetto Manifattura - Polo Meccatronica www.trentinosviluppo.it	Trentino Sviluppo SpA
NETHERLANDS	Innofest www.innofest.co	Stichting Innofest
SLOVENIA	Entrepreneurship in the Future www.ajdovscina.si	Municipality of Ajdovščina
SPAIN	Reempresa www.reempresa.org	FUNDACIÓN CECOT INNOVACIÓN
TURKEY	Business Friendly Uskudar Municipality www.uskudar.bel.tr	Uskudar Municipality

2017 National Winners

Supporting the Internationalisation of Business

AUSTRIA	Program Internationalization 2015 – 2020 www.ecointernational.at	Ecoplus International GmbH
CROATIA	Pun Ceker – Let's Buy Local www.simora.hr	The Regional Development Agency SIMORA, Sisak – Moslavina County
GERMANY	Import Promotion Desk (IPD) www.importpromotiondesk.de	Sequa gGmbH
GREECE	Greek Breakfast www.grhotels.gr/	Hellenic Chamber of Hotels
HUNGARY	InnoTrade Program www.kereskedohaz.hu	Hungarian National Trading House
POLAND	Biznes Lubelskie http://invest.lubelskie.pl/pl	Urząd marszałkowski województwa lubelskiego w Lublinie
PORTUGAL	MADEIRA VINTNERS http://cafmadeira.pt/	CAF – Cooperativa Agrícola do Funchal
SERBIA	Private sector Development Project- PSD www.ras.gov.rs	Development Agency of Serbia (RAS)
SLOVENIA	SKIS – Smart Key Information Support www.replika.si	REPLIKA, napredne rešitve, d.o.o.
SPAIN	ICEX Next www.icex.es	ICEX España Exportación e Inversiones
UK	Business West International Trade Centre www.businesswest.co.uk	Business West

Responsible and Inclusive Entrepreneurship

BULGARIA	Listen Up Online Platform for Equal Access http://zaslushaise.bg/en/	Listen Up Foundation, Bulgaria
FRANCE	Adie Microfranchise Solidaire (AMS) www.adie.org/	Adie (Association pour le Droit à l'Initiative Economique)
ICELAND	Social and green impact of an electronic drug administration system in an Icelandic nursing home for the elderly www.akureyri.is/oldrunarheimili	Öldrunarheimili Akureyrar- nursing home for the elderly
MALTA	Setting up our Social Enterprise http://sns.wardija.skola.edu.mt/	Maria Regina College, Dun Manwel Attard, Young Adult Education, Resource Centre
NETHERLANDS	IMC Weekendschool www.imcweekendschool.nl	IMC Weekendschool
POLAND	Karlino – Heading towards Development www.karlino.pl	Karlino Municipality
PORTUGAL	MUNDAR: Change your world – young entrepreneurship contest www.programaescolhas.pt/	ACM IP, Gestor do Programa Escolhas in partnership with the Calouste Gulbenkian Foundation
ROMANIA	ARAD WELDING SCHOOL www.cprarad.ro/	The Romanian Ownership Confederation – Arad County Branch
SLOVAKIA	DATAROOM www.dataroom.sk	DATAROOM s.r.o.
SWEDEN	STAR (Social Innovation och Tillväxt för Alla i Regionen) www.ventures.gu.se	GU Ventures AB



Past Grand Jury Prize Winners

The European Enterprise Promotion Awards were launched in 2006. Since that time, there have been 86 winning entries including one Grand Jury Prize Winner in each competition. Past Grand Jury Prize winners include:

2016 Entrepreneurial West Hisingen City of Gothenburg, district West Hisingen

Entrepreneurial West Hisingen supports the city district's reputation as a hub of opportunities and entrepreneurship. The project is divided into three parts:

- 1) Entrepreneurship in education, in which 20,000 pupils got to come up with an idea for their own book, write it, design, publish, market and display, and sell it at the largest book fair for children in Sweden.
- 2) Start your business, working with the University of Gothenburg and the Red Cross to pilot a startup course for newly arrived refugees with a business background in their home country.
- 3) Develop your business, a training programme covering areas including online marketing, sales and trade, business negotiations, branding, etc.

www.foretagsammavastrahisingen.se/



2015 Lisbon Micro-Entrepreneurship Lisbon Municipal Council, Portugal

Lisbon Micro-Entrepreneurship works to support responsible and inclusive entrepreneurship by providing a number of services including helping to develop business plans and advising on how to obtain funding. It was set up in 2013 with the aim of stimulating the city's economy and supporting company and job creation. The initiative is part of Lisbon Municipal Council's (LMC) global strategy to support entrepreneurship, bringing together public, private and local and national bodies with a local focus, enabling anyone to get support for projects in a range of fields, from the planning phase through to the first years of activity.

www.cm-lisboa.pt



2014 Encouraging Business Start-ups by Mothers with Young Children Gazdagmami K. Gy.l, Hungary

Encouraging Business Start-ups by Mothers with Young Children helps mothers to acquire the entrepreneurial skills and mindset to start a business and make it profitable. The project delivers online resources including a blog, Facebook page, e-learning training programmes and a weekly newsletter, as well as the Entrepreneurial Women's Roundtable meeting to help mothers navigate the world of business and network with each other. The project also hosts the annual Mother Company of the Year competition and the Business Mums' Conference.

www.gazdagmami.hu



2013 Think Small First, Latvian Chamber of Commerce and Industry, Latvia

Think Small First was developed to help micro-enterprises by promoting the creation of a special tax rate and simplified tax accounting system, by introducing a micro-credit programme and by making information about launching a business available in one place.

www.chamber.lv



The Promoters of the European Enterprise Promotion Awards



The Assembly of European Regions (AER.eu) is the largest independent network of regions in wider Europe. Bringing together more than 270 regions from 33 countries and 16 inter-regional organisations, AER is the political voice of its members and a forum for inter-regional co-operation.

www.aer.eu



The European Association of Economic Development Agencies (EURADA) is a Europe-wide network of people working on economic development. EURADA has given a lead on a policy agenda including, amongst others, regional policy, small business finance (EURADA set up the European Business Angels Network), entrepreneurship and innovation.

www.eurada.org



EUROCHAMBRES is the Association of European Chambers of Commerce and Industry. It represents over 20 million enterprises in Europe and a European network of 1,700 regional and local Chambers in 43 countries. More than 98% of these enterprises are small and medium sized enterprises (SMEs).

www.eurochambres.eu

EUROPEAN UNION



Committee of the Regions

The Committee of the Regions (CoR) in Brussels was established by the Maastricht Treaty in 1994 as a consultative body to provide representatives of local and regional government with a voice at the heart of the European Union.

<http://cor.europa.eu/Pages/welcome.html>



EUROCITIES is the political platform for major European cities towards the EU institutions. We network the local governments of over 130 of Europe's largest cities and 40 partner cities that between them govern some 130 million citizens across 35 countries.

www.eurocities.eu



Union Européenne de l'Artisanat et des Petites et Moyennes Entreprises (UEAPME) is the employers' organisation representing the interests of European crafts, trades and SMEs at EU level. UEAPME is a recognised European Social Partner. UEAPME incorporates 84 member organisations from 36 countries. It represents more than 12 million enterprises, which employ around 55 million people across Europe.

www.ueapme.com



The European Commission DG Internal Market, Industry, Entrepreneurship and SMEs (DG GROW)

Within the European Commission, the Directorate-General for Internal Market, Industry, Entrepreneurship and SMEs, works to provide a more favourable environment for European Business. It ensures that European Union policies contribute to the competitiveness of EU enterprises by encouraging entrepreneurship and innovation, maintaining and reinforcing a strong and high-performing industrial base, by stimulating investment in new technologies and easing access to markets and to finance.

At the core of these policies are small and medium sized enterprises, as they are the principal providers of jobs and growth in Europe. DG Internal Market, Industry, Entrepreneurship and SMEs works with the business community to help develop innovative, competitive and responsible enterprise and with Member States to implement the Small Business Act for Europe.

http://ec.europa.eu/growth/index_en.htm

Your Europe Business Portal

Want to find out what the EU does to boost small businesses in Europe and on the global market, and what it can do for your business?

Your Europe Business is a multilingual single gateway to practical information on how to do business in the Single Market. It offers help to businesses and entrepreneurs who want to expand their activities to other EU or EEA countries. It provides practical information and links to national rules, authorities, helpdesks, and support services.

http://europa.eu/youreurope/business/index_en.htm

European Enterprise Promotion Awards

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<http://ec.europa.eu/growth/smes/support/enterprise-promotion-awards/>

