



European
Commission



European Enterprise Promotion Awards

Building a sustainable and
resilient future together

2020

Internal Market, Industry,
Entrepreneurship
and SMEs

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FOREWORD

After 14 successful annual editions, the European Enterprise Promotion Awards (EEPAs) continue to demonstrate and celebrate the pinnacle of innovation and entrepreneurship in Europe. This year the Awards have been set against the backdrop of a global pandemic and the devastating lasting impact that COVID-19 is having on the SME community and the European economy as a whole. It has, therefore, never been more important to celebrate the initiatives which support and encourage SMEs and contribute to the European economy and sustained SME growth.

These projects and the dedicated teams behind them are examples of Europeans pioneering the latest innovative enterprise concepts. This year the EEPA Jury had to choose from 185 national projects competing at European level, and created a shortlist of 49 projects representing the strongest ideas from across the EU and COSME countries.

This year during the 2020 SME Assembly there were seven winners (including the Grand Jury Prize), with many interesting runners-up and special mentions awarded. I would like to personally congratulate all of the projects that were awarded and hope that you will take the time to learn about them from this compendium. I also believe that the projects that won at national level deserve to be recognised for their efforts due to their high standard.

The Awards themselves would not be possible without the hard work of many, especially the EEPA National Coordinators.

In the difficult times we have been living through, the National Coordinators have

still managed to find the 'best of the best' through well organised national competitions and have ensured a continued high standard of projects and competition for 2020.

I extend my thanks to each and every one of you committed to bringing to light the projects making a real difference for SMEs and entrepreneurship across Europe and through that, creating a greater awareness of the role entrepreneurship and entrepreneurs play in society. I would also like to thank the EEPA Jury whose task was not easy this year as, in order for EEPA to accommodate as many countries as possible, flexible deadlines were given and so jurors had to evaluate entries on a moving timeline. Despite this, they invested a lot of time in thoroughly evaluating each project and selecting this year's deserving winners.

I kindly invite you to learn more about the awards and the 2020 participants and hope you will be inspired by their pioneering examples of innovation and entrepreneurship.



Kristin Schreiber
Deputy EU SME Envoy and Director for
SME Policy, European Commission

SMALL BUSINESSES DRIVING THE RECOVERY

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 in Europe. 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%.

SME Strategy

At the centre of the Commission's action for small business is the new SME Strategy for a sustainable and digital Europe. It aims to considerably increase the number of SMEs engaging in sustainable business practices as well as the number of SMEs employing digital technologies. Ultimately, the goal is that Europe becomes the most attractive place to start a small business, make it grow and scale-up in the single market and beyond.

The strategy proposes actions under three pillars:

- Capacity building and support for the twin transition;
- Reducing the regulatory burden and improving market access to the Single Market and beyond;
- As well as improving access to finance.

These key areas of the strategy continue to be priorities for the coming years. In addition, efforts will focus on the economic recovery after the COVID-19 pandemic.

The strategy builds on the very strong foundations of the EU's existing SME policy framework and support programmes, notably the 2008 Small Business Act.

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

The SME Envoy network provides guidance to implement European SME policy in line with the strategic objectives of the Commission such as the twin transition to sustainability and digitalisation and the promotion of economic resilience in the recovery of the COVID-crisis. The network, first created by the Small Business Act in 2011, ensures that EU SME policy reaches SMEs at national level, and contributes to communicating SMEs grievances and concerns back to EU policy makers. The SME Envoy network is an important tool to ensure the smooth functioning of the partnership between the EU and Member States' level.

To find out more about SME Envoys, visit: https://ec.europa.eu/growth/smes/sme-strategy/sme-envoys_en

WHAT DOES IT MEAN TO BECOME AN EEPA WINNER?

Winning a European Enterprise Promotion Award is the result of lots of hard work and dedication but winning an award is only the beginning. The 2019 EEPA winners below share the impact that winning an award had on them and their projects, and what happens after the ceremony.

Grand Jury Prize Winner 2019

[GreenPAC iLab](#)

It was a great feeling and surprise to win the award. It represents a great acknowledgement of the hard work of the GreenPAC iLab team, and the universities of Windesheim and NHL Stenden. It was not always easy to get funding for our plans and recognition of the work that the startups and GreenPAC iLab do. Over the last couple of years we have developed a big movement and community which have had an impact on sustainability, circular business models and the growth of startups. It is truly a great feeling for all of this to be recognised and valued by the EEPA jury.



EEPA 2019 Winner, Supporting the Internationalisation of Business - [HealthTech Nordic](#)

Amazing! It was really nerve-racking sitting in the audience and listening to the presentations of the three category finalists. Both we and the project from the Netherlands were convinced that the Romanian project would win, their film was so good! When we heard our project announced as the winner we couldn't believe it! As I was standing on the podium giving my Thank You speech I just blacked out and completely forgot the name of my project colleague standing next to me.

We have worked together for almost 2 years and her name was totally gone. I almost panicked there and then, on stage, so I just admitted that I had forgotten her name! Looking back at the recording I realise that the 'eternity' when I blacked out was really just a second or two. After the ceremony so many people came up to me and thanked me for being me on stage, displaying happiness, surprise and passion and for giving them a reason to laugh at this otherwise very formal event. Overall it was an amazing evening and experience.



EEPA 2019 Winner, Investing in Entrepreneurial Skills - [IDEA Innovation Centre & Incubator – Accelerator for Start-ups from Cyprus](#)

The award made the whole of Cyprus proud! It proved that it is not the size of the country that matters, but the ambition, vision and extent of collaboration that count. Through our win we inspired confidence and showed the rest of Cyprus that we can achieve great things in the areas of innovation and entrepreneurship. We proved that by applying the values of sharing, giving-back and creating opportunities, the benefit comes back to all of us involved. Winning this Award is a noble endorsement from our European Family.

Being in Helsinki and experiencing the moment was amazing, and even though not all of our team could make it to Helsinki we were all there together in spirit. This illustrates another beautiful side of Europe: In the same way that it brings businesses together, it brings people together, and we are grateful for this.

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. 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 2020 Jury is composed of:



Kristin Schreiber
Deputy EU SME Envoy
and Director for SME
Policy, European
Commission

"A winning EEPA project is unique in its achievements and can bring tangible impacts. It should also demonstrate innovativeness, creativity and transferability."

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, Vladimír 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.



Prof. Thomas Cooney
Professor of
Entrepreneurship,
Technological University
Dublin

"The winning project needed to demonstrate high levels of innovation, flexibility and sustainability to ensure that it could adapt to change during these challenging times."

Thomas is also the Academic Director of the Institute for Minority Entrepreneurship, is a Director of four businesses and works in a supportive capacity with a variety of organisations. 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.ie.



Ben Butters
CEO of EUROCHAMBRES

"Activities to promote enterprise and entrepreneurship come in many shapes and forms as this year's entries underline. Fundamentally though, they need to have an impact, which means measurable improvements for businesses, for entrepreneurs and for would-be entrepreneurs. In the current climate, as we try to revive Europe's economy, this is more important than ever."

Ben Butters has been with EUROCHAMBRES, the European association of Chambers of Commerce & Industry, since 2008 and was appointed CEO in 2020. He has over 20 years of experience in representing business interests towards the EU institutions, with a strong focus on small & medium sized enterprises.

Ben acquired experience in both the European Commission and the European Parliament earlier in his career, as well as working for a network of innovation centres. Directly before joining EUROCHAMBRES, he created and for several years ran his own business providing EU advocacy support to small business associations.



Anke Wiegand

Head of Unit Innovation,
Funding, Financing at Berlin
Partner for Business and
Technology GmbH



Thomas Wobben

Director for the Committee
of the Regions



Bastian Coes

Manager of the Dutch
start-up community
Green PAC iLab



Dr. Sabine Hepperle

Federal Ministry for
Economic Affairs and
Energy Director-General for
SME Policy

"In the shadow of this year's pandemic, SMEs all over Europe came up with excellent ideas, digital skills and visions for sustainable, health and climate friendly solutions for the future. Support schemes need to adapt in order to encourage this spirit of resilience. My preferred EEPA projects will help and support these innovations to find their way into our societies."

Berlin is one of the most dynamic economic regions in Germany, as a start-up hub, as a place for innovative technologies and science. Here, entrepreneurs find the know-how they need to strengthen competitiveness through innovation.

Attractive collaboration and funding programs exist for all phases of product and service development.

Anke Wiegand is actively involved in the vibrant Berlin innovation ecosystem, being a member of the Committee for Innovation at the Berlin Chamber of Commerce and Industry. She is convinced that innovation and competitiveness on international markets belong closely together.

As coordinator of the Enterprise Europe Network activities in the German capital region she is an expert on tailor-made an SME innovation and internationalisation support.

"The EEPA competition offers to me every year a sample of European diversity. Looking at the EEPA projects, I try to assess their impact and added value in a specific territorial context, shortlisting in particular those that inspire and provide at least some transferability potential to other territories with similar characteristics."

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. Since March 2012 he has been Director for Horizontal Policies and Networks and later on for legislative works at the Committee of the Regions.

"A great part of the success of our economy depends on a new generation of entrepreneurs. Entrepreneurs who know how to adapt and can switch between different competences where creativity can make the difference. This creativity is seen in the great entries of the various EEPA projects. They show the need for continuous investment in the entrepreneurs of the future."

Green PAC iLab won the EEPA Grand Jury Prize 2019 for being the most creative and inspiring European initiative in the way it encourages and supports entrepreneurship.

As the manager of Green PAC iLab, Bastian's main goal is to ensure that the start-up entrepreneurs who come to iLab succeed in their goals and ambitions and become healthy and sustainable businesses.

This is done not by just focusing on their products or services, but mainly by investing in the competences that will help the entrepreneur to become (more) successful.

"A winning EEPA project is one that is unique and innovative. It should also have a significant impact on the local business environment. In times of COVID-19 we especially need innovative and successful projects, which are transferrable to other regions and countries. While evaluating the EEPA projects, I have particularly focused on the local impact of the projects as well as the benefit the projects have on SMEs."

Sabine joined the Ministry in February 2014. Prior to this, she was Managing Director at the Representation of the Association of German Chambers of Commerce and Industry (DIHK) at the European Union, Brussels. Her previous roles include Regional Director for Asia Pacific and Africa/ Development Policy at DIHK, Berlin. She has also served as head of Berlin's foreign trade promotion programme for SMEs at the city's foreign trade promotion agency (BAO BERLIN/ IHK Berlin), which followed postings in Windhoek/Namibia, Tel Aviv/ Israel and Bonn/Germany with the Friedrich-Ebert-Foundation.

Sabine studied Political Science, Economics and Public Law at universities in Munich and Tel Aviv. She holds a Ph.D. in Modern History.

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 2020 for a chance to enter the European Enterprise Promotion Awards.

Countries were allowed to nominate a maximum of two entries (in different categories) for 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 2020

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

Le Portail du Rebond Des Entrepreneurs

The Recovery Portal is made up of associations that together provide a nationwide service to entrepreneurs to help them through difficult times such as insolvency prevention. The associations have unique specialisations across different areas, allowing them to cover the entire value chain; from entrepreneurial failure and its prevention to entrepreneurial recovery and its promotion.

Various associations in France are involved in individual stages of the recovery process, but there was no single initiative capable of providing a complete service throughout the process.

The Recovery Portal is an effective solution to this situation. By grouping six national associations together, the Portal enables them to coordinate their actions and establish something that is unique in Europe: a complete value chain to support entrepreneurs facing difficulties.

The strength of this grouping of associations is that it provides a more institutional framework for the idea of 'bouncing back'. Through regular meetings of the Recovery Portal, many institutional players involved in French



"The ENTREPRENEURIAL RECOVERY PORTAL is proud that its innovative grouping of 6 associations, each carrying out complementary actions, has been recognized as an effective system that is unique in Europe, both in the diversity of its scope and in its coherence as a whole"

entrepreneurship have met together and listened to each other, fostering the creation of useful synergies.

The Portal provides a single online point of access so that entrepreneurs can choose the association that corresponds to their entrepreneurial recovery needs.

The associations then help the entrepreneurs to navigate the necessary measures and authorities, and remove obstacles to their recovery.

Christian de Baecque
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PROMOTING THE ENTREPRENEURIAL SPIRIT

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

Open Entrepreneurship

The Open Entrepreneurship project formalises collaboration between researchers, investors and private businesses, to improve and increase the role of research in startup creation.

By developing a new approach to the commercialisation of research, the project aims to make better use of existing research to fuel innovation, facilitate knowledge transfer to SMEs, and increase the number and quality of startups emerging from universities.

To date, the project has led to the establishment of over 35 new companies and increased the knowledge surrounding the commercialisation of research amongst hundreds of students and researchers.



Jes Broeng, Director, Professor DTU
Entrepreneurship

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"Open Entrepreneurship is about using our research to the best possible extent in order to create growth and development and address the many challenges the world is facing right now. The award is a fantastic recognition of the initiative, which has been made possible by the Danish Industry Foundation and a large number of dedicated and skilled employees in and around OE."



Winner



“Being shortlisted at the European level brings us the visibility we need to help young people implement their projects within an international entrepreneurship programme that is tailored to each individual.”



Atlantic Futures

The Atlantic Futures programme, developed by the Atlantic Cities association in 2018, is a transnational programme offering young people opportunities to develop their entrepreneurial skills at European level.

Existing initiatives are combined with personalised and targeted support to help the programme participants build upon their ambitions, make their projects a reality, and develop and nurture their talents.

The scheme benefits young job-seekers by providing them with experience and transferable skills that they can take forward into their careers.



Maria Montoiro

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<https://atlanticcities.eu/fr/archives/category/atlantic-futures-en-2-fr>

‘Demokritos’: Innovation Ecosystem for Sustainable Entrepreneurship

Greek public research institution Demokritos transformed itself, with financing from the European Investment Bank, into a smart and autonomous open entrepreneurial ecosystem, with state-of-the-art infrastructure in exponential technologies.

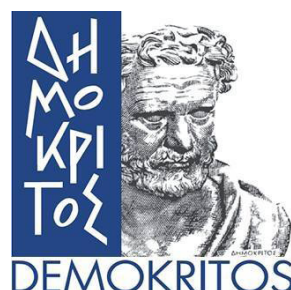
This dynamic innovative ecosystem houses numerous programmes and activities that are accessible to all innovative enterprises in the country, such as the Industrial Scholarships Programme, the ‘Lefkippos’ Technological Park and the AHEDD digital innovation hub.

The institution’s interdisciplinary environment attracts international investment and research talent from all over the world.

George Strongylopoulos, Technology Transfer Officer

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“The acknowledgement of our strategic effort for support of innovation and entrepreneurship in a smart, autonomous research environment is a source of power and inspiration, so that the business transformation of Demokritos will continue to substantially contribute to the growth of the Greek economy.”



INVESTING IN ENTREPRENEURIAL SKILLS

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



Mobile Workshops

Merkuur has developed a series of mobile workshops to introduce young people to various professions, work practices, and tools to be found in the metal and woodworking sectors.

It provides an opportunity to gain hands-on experience, raising interest in these professions and increasing young people's career awareness.

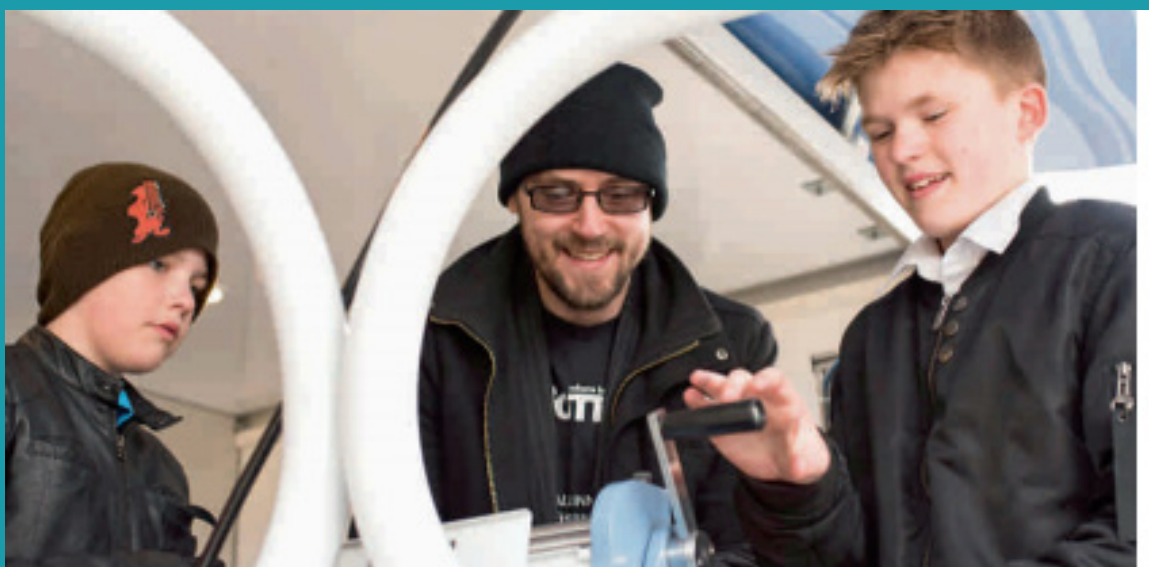
In mobile classrooms equipped with modern technology, students can test their engineering skills, try various techniques and tools, and make exciting products. In the space of just three years, the Merkuur team has organised over 700 science, technology and engineering workshops for about 7000 young people.



Liis Proos, Co-founder
and Youth Leader
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www.merkuur.eu

"The Merkuur team is grateful and happy for the European recognition because any acknowledgement inspires us to work harder and to develop even more exciting learning solutions. We have a great hope that the Mobile Workshops service will become an important element of the Estonian education system, by bringing innovative technologies and methodological approaches to technology classes. We invest in young people. Do the same!"

Winner



Het Internet. Ook uw zaak.

"Being shortlisted is a great honour. This means that a European jury of national experts in the area of entrepreneurship expresses appreciation for the work delivered. It is a stimulus to continue along the chosen path."



Het internet. Ook uw zaak

"Het internet. Ook uw zaak", 'The internet, your business too' raises awareness and promotes the benefits of online marketing and e-commerce to businesses.

It demonstrates what can be achieved online by offering practical tips, tools and information to help businesses improve their online presence. It also provides a forum for peer exchange, allowing businesses to get inspiration from each other.

Businesses have already seen a positive effect on turnover as a result with an intermediate measurement showing that the share of traders using e-commerce rose from 18 to 32%. The positive effect on turnover has also been seen in traders' physical premises.

Stefaan Piens

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Engenuity Engineering Cluster Midlands

The Engenuity Engineering Cluster Midlands pilot provides local engineering businesses with sector specific professional training, tailored mentoring, action planning, networking and collaboration opportunities.

The Engenuity Programme is an integral part of a structured effort to promote market-led innovation, stakeholder collaboration, best practice transfer, and product and trade development among engineering companies in the region.

In total, 20 engineering companies directly benefited from the pilot, which helped them achieve their growth objectives - with 70% of the companies creating new jobs and witnessing an increase in turnover and 15% growth in exports.

Tracey Tallon

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Midlands Innovation Programme

"The inclusion of the Engenuity project in the shortlist of the EEPA Awards, is a great recognition of a challenge that has involved a collaborative regional approach to deliver support activities to the cluster that boost skills in SMEs associated with innovation, entrepreneurship, networking and product development partnerships."



IMPROVING THE BUSINESS ENVIRONMENT

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.



BIND 4.0 – Basque Industry 4.0 Accelerator Program

BIND 4.0 is a public-private acceleration programme specialising in promoting Industry 4.0 projects. It is aimed at technological startups with 4.0 solutions in the fields of advanced manufacturing, energy, health and food.

The programme has been set up as an open innovation platform, where startups from all over the world and large industrial companies established in the Basque Country interact in an agile way to develop innovative high-impact projects.

The startups receive intensive support and benefit from activities aimed at accelerating their development and immersion in the Basque industrial ecosystem.

BIND4.0

STARTUP!
BASQUE INDUSTRY 4.0
ACCELERATOR PROGRAM

Marian Gabilondo, Coordinadora del Programa BIND 4.0
marian@bicgipuzkoa.eus
www.bind40.com

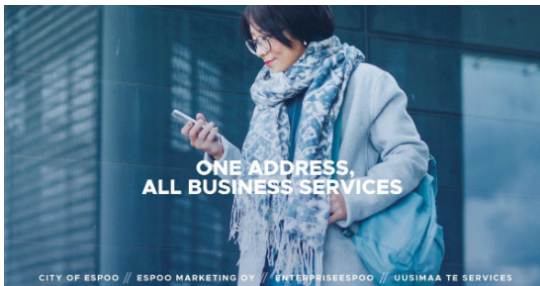
“This means recognition of the commitment of the Basque Government and the main companies in the Basque Country in promoting a powerful open innovation platform that allows them to connect with the best world talent in Industry 4.0, supporting the development of strategic sectors and positioning the Basque Country as a hub of advanced entrepreneurship.”

Winner



BUSINESS ESPOO

"The most valuable thing in receiving the award would be to make Business Espoo's business service better known to companies in the region, thereby improving the vitality of companies and the city."



Start-up BW Local – Landeswettbewerb für gründungsfreundliche Kommunen

Start-up BW Local is a regional competition in Baden-Württemberg that helps communities, cities and districts develop concepts for start-up friendly local structures. Entrepreneurs then evaluate these concepts and award a "Startup-friendly" label to the best ones.

The award has helped to increase the founding of start-ups and enterprises in Baden-Württemberg. In the first round of the competition, 75 municipalities were awarded the title "Excellent place for founders and start-ups".

The competition has strengthened the community of startup supporters and has helped to establish un-bureaucratic structures from which startup entrepreneurs can really benefit.

Henning Schimpf

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www.startupbw.de/local-en

Business Espoo – Helping companies thrive

Business Espoo is a business service network that supports local entrepreneurs and companies by providing a wide range of high-quality business support services from one single hub.

The network provides advisory services to entrepreneurs setting up or developing a company, offering support in acquiring skilled workers, finding access to funding, and in conducting international recruitment campaigns.

Entrepreneurs are also offered the opportunity to network through training and various events. In doing this, Business Espoo supports entrepreneurs and companies through all stages of the business life cycle.

Harri Paananen, Head of Business

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www.businessespoo.com



Runners Up



"As an EEPA shortlisted project, we have come a great deal closer to our goal of making the attractive start-up location of Baden-Württemberg more visible. Special thanks go to the excellent communities who support entrepreneurs with services they really need."



SUPPORTING THE INTERNATIONALISATION OF BUSINESS

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 the European Union.



Portugal Bike Value

Portugal Bike Value is working to support and promote the potential of the Portuguese bicycle industry, establishing it as a player in the European supply chain. It is also promoting Portugal as a destination for foreign investment in the area of Soft Mobility.

The initiative's efforts saw exports to more than 50 destinations on all continents increase from EUR 226 million in 2011 to EUR 402 million in 2019, including a 22% increase between 2018 and 2019.

By investing in cleaner technologies that have a reduced environmental footprint, Portugal Bike Value is also helping to support the European Green Deal.



**PORTUGAL
BIKE VALUE**

Gil Nadais, Secretário Geral
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www.abimota.pt

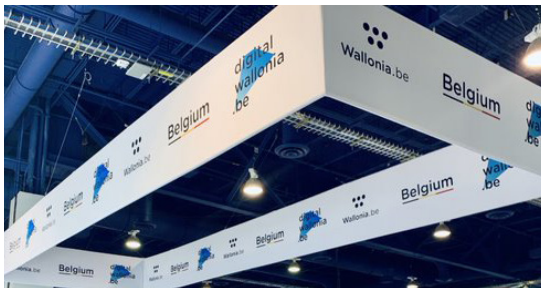
"Receiving this award is the recognition that shows we are on the right track, that is, it reinforces that the work done so far in affirming the national economy and improving its competitiveness depends very much on the increase in the export capacity and the commitment to internationalisation that we have made with all our associated companies."

Winner



digital wallonia .be

“The best way to predict your future is to create it”. (Abraham Lincoln)”



Digital Wallonia International

Digital Wallonia International offers a programme of international activities, such as trade fairs, economic missions to international start-up hot-spots and festivals, which support the international development of Walloon digital companies and increase the international visibility and presence of the Walloon digital sector.

The initiative was rolled out as a network of ten hubs in cities and regions to give digital startups and companies a primary point of contact for information to help accelerate the growth of their business.

To date, more than 360 digital companies and startups have participated in 75 international events proposed by the project.



Guy Vanpaesschen

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www.digitalwallonia.be/fr/publications/dwi-home

Nationwide educational program “Export R|Evolution Ukraine”

The programme shares international and local expertise on export operations with Ukrainian companies.

Over a three-year period, Export R|Evolution Ukraine trained more than 2,300 people from every region in the country on how to maximize their export potential. Export R|Evolution Ukraine is a nationwide educational programme that leverages the experience of the best experts in their field.

Over 75% of the participating companies confirmed that their exports increased as a result.

Export sales by participating companies grew on average by 3.6 mln UAH per year after participating in the programme.

Tetiana Miskova

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www.epo.org.ua/education/evolution-start/

EXPORT R|EVOLUTION

U K R A I N E

“During three years of implementing the Export R|Evolution Programme we managed to enhance the competitiveness of more than 2,300 Ukrainian entrepreneurs in national and foreign markets that has greatly contributed to stimulating export by Ukrainian enterprises. We are happy to spread our successful approach further!”



SUPPORTING THE DEVELOPMENT OF GREEN MARKETS AND RESOURCE EFFICIENCY

Recognises policies and initiatives that support SME access to green markets and helps to improve their resource efficiency.



Greentech.Ruhr

Greentech.Ruhr is an environmental management network in the Ruhr region that aims to strengthen the region's environmental economy, thereby supporting its transition from a mining region to a diversified economy with a high degree of specialisation in tackling ecological challenges.

Increased cooperation between all players in the Ruhr environmental economy is needed to deal with growing environmental protection challenges.

Greentech.Ruhr facilitates this by bringing together local companies, educational and research institutions and public bodies to further promote the Ruhr's innovative potential in the field of environmental economics.



Christina Zollmarsch
zollmarsch@business.ruhr
greentech.ruhr

"It is a great feeling when the project, which is carried out with so much passion and commitment, receives such recognition from outside experts. I find it very motivating for my own work and, of course, I am happy about the media attention that the project receives as a result."

Winner





"We are honoured to be shortlisted for this award recognising our team's hard work and businesses' and stakeholders' drive to enact change. Businesses have learnt that energy efficiency is not only an environmental responsibility, but it also makes business sense. This is becoming more critical now with the EU Green Deal launch."



MBB Energy Ecosystem

MBB Energy Ecosystem is the first comprehensive network of energy stakeholders and businesses of its type in Malta.

The Ecosystem aims to boost energy efficiency among Maltese businesses through technical support, training, networking, and addressing financing gaps.

It also allows for the dissemination of best practices, policy learning, and concrete action towards boosting energy efficiency in industry. The initiative has reached around 150 Maltese companies and will continue to expand its network and to offer continuous support.



Joe Tanti, Chief Executive Officer
ceo@mbb.org.mt
www.mbb.org.mt

HOSPES by AHP - Digital Platform

The HOSPES Programme is a corporate social responsibility and environmental sustainability programme developed by the Portuguese Hospitality Association in cooperation with participating hotels.

The programme supports hotels in achieving their social and environmental goals. It facilitates the donation of hotel goods to social and environmental support institutions.

Over a period of just one month, more than 100 000 items were donated by over 100 hotels to field hospitals and support centres working with vulnerable members of the community. The programme also helps mitigate the environmental impact of hotel activity by reducing waste and supporting the circular economy.

Cristina Siza Vieira
direccao@hoteis-portugal.pt
www.hospes.pt



"Being shortlisted within the framework of the European Enterprise Promotion Awards, an initiative of the European Commission included in the Small Business Act, makes a huge contribution to the increased visibility and its impacts on the work of AHP and its associates, in favour of a more sustainable social economy based on a shared digital economy."



RESPONSIBLE AND INCLUSIVE ENTREPRENEURSHIP

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.



Social Enterprise NL

Social Enterprise NL is a national network and a key driver in the growing movement towards social entrepreneurship in the Netherlands. The network currently has 405 members, who benefit from the large number of workshops and growth programmes organised throughout the year aimed at strengthening their business.

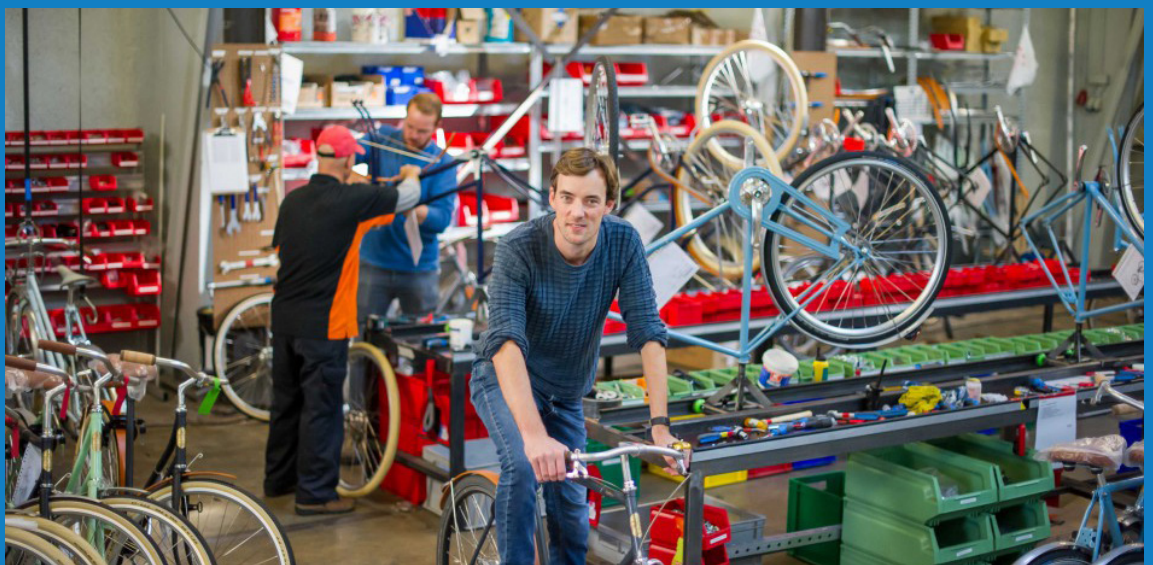
Members also receive support from network coaches and experts and gain online visibility and publicity. Social Enterprise NL also aspires towards better regulation and legislation and, with this goal in mind, is active in promoting these objectives at the municipal, regional and national levels.



Stefan Panhuijsen, Director
stefan@social-enterprise.nl
www.social-enterprise.nl

"We are honoured to be a national EEPA winner and be shortlisted for a European award. We see it as a great appreciation for our work and a confirmation that social entrepreneurship is more than ever of substantial value. With this recognition we are working even harder towards a new economy that is inclusive and circular."

Winner





"We are proud to be able to successfully tread an unusual path as a small mountain village with a modern motivational and communications strategy. The award encourages us to continue on this path and we hope that it will also inspire and support other communities in this period of change."



Taugl – zammbringa zammkemma

"Taugl - zammbringa zammkemma" has developed a branding for the mountain village of Taugl in Austria's St. Koloman district in an effort to develop community projects and to support citizens in implementing their entrepreneurial ideas.

It is transforming the traditional core of the village community into a modern international digital hub. The project supports start-ups and promotes cooperation, sustainability and the internationalisation of local economic potential.

Citizens are able to buy from Taugler Körberl, an association of local producers providing products from the town and the surrounding area.



Patrick Sellier
patrick@tauglerei.at
www.taugl.online

Emergency Management Program

The Emergency Management Programme is a public-private partnership set up to respond to emergencies and support businesses, communities and territories affected by catastrophes.

The programme also aims to promote the transition from a culture of emergency response to that of prevention and resilience. With a network of 140 entrepreneurs and experts from the public and private sectors, the network ensures production continuity and safety during emergency situations.

Community-wide engagement is needed for resilient SMEs and territories, so the programme promotes prevention and increases awareness of risks and the culture of resilience among institutions, citizens and businesses.



"Being shortlisted for a European award for promoting entrepreneurship fills us with pride. It is a winning model that can be replicated in other countries and provides an incentive to do more in preventing and responding to emergencies."



Roberto Cardinali
cardinali@tecnofilm.com
www.confindustriapge.it
www.confindustria.it





"We are led by the idea of awakening the students' innovative and entrepreneurial abilities. This is why it is very important to strengthen the entrepreneurial culture in Montenegro. To receive an award of this level would be of great significance for us as a higher education institution and the country we live in as well."



Stock Market of Entrepreneurial Ideas- IDEALAND

IDEALAND is an event dedicated to encouraging the development of entrepreneurial business ideas, primarily among high school and university students from Montenegro and the surrounding region.

Over the past 10 years, more than 1 000 students business ideas have been submitted, and each year the submissions are narrowed down to the top 11.

At the event the 11 strongest ideas are presented by their creators in 3-minute pitches. For 10 years now, this event has encouraged young people to produce top quality ideas and solutions to everyday problems.

Marko Nisavic, Coordinator
Marko.nisavic@udg.edu.me

<http://www.preduzetnistvo.me/index.php?lang=eng>

The Entrepreneurial Journey

Junior Achievement Cyprus is a member of Junior Achievement Worldwide, the world's largest non-profit organisation addressing, through education, the fundamental social and economic challenges faced by young people.

JA Cyprus offers entrepreneurial programmes to young people from primary to post-secondary education, providing access to opportunities for active participation in business and community life.

Through its programmes *More than Money*, *Economics for Success*, *Entrepreneurship in Second Chance Schools*, *Innovation Camp*, *Company Programme* and *StartUp*, the initiative within the last year alone has provided entrepreneurial education to more than 2,100 students throughout Cyprus.

Emily Sotiriou, Programme Coordinator
info@jacyprus.org
<https://jacyprus.org>



"Being shortlisted for a European Enterprise Promotion Award makes us proud of the implementation and success of our vision. But it also gives us more motivation to reinforce our efforts in developing the entrepreneurial education in our country more and reach a higher number of students every year all over Cyprus."



START BUSINESS CHALLENGE

"This award means the highest appreciation of the joint efforts of the state, non-profit and international partners cultivating the entrepreneurial spirit in Ukraine. One of the hardest steps for a potential Ukrainian businessperson is to start legally. This first step should be transparent and user-friendly. #StartBusinessChallenge makes this happen."



#StartBusinessChallenge (SBC)

#StartBusinessChallenge is a free support tool that provides clear step-by-step instructions on how to start a new business or scale-up an existing one in Ukraine, in compliance with national and local regulations.

Launched in 2017, #StartBusinessChallenge contains 176 business instructions for 15 business clusters, as well as localised procedures covering the specific registration requirements of 32 Ukrainian cities.

#StartBusinessChallenge was updated in 2020 with verified healthcare instructions and digitising tips for businesses related to the COVID-19 crisis.

Oleksii Dorogan, CEO at Better Regulation Delivery Office
o.dorogan@brdo.com.ua
<https://sbc.regulation.gov.ua/>

ImpactCity The Hague

The Hague is the city for entrepreneurs who want to build a better world. As ImpactCity, The Hague offers a wide range of opportunities and services to entrepreneurs and other impact makers with innovative solutions.

The city encourages "doing good and doing business" in all kinds of ways with practical help: assistance with settling, startup hubs, possibilities for financing and a great infrastructure.

The local and at the same time unique international network of The Hague connects NGOs, research centers, knowledge institutes, established companies, governments and many young and creative entrepreneurs who want to make a difference, creating an unique and leading impact ecosystem.

Steven de Kruijf
Steven.dekruijf@denhaag.nl
<https://impactcity.nl>



ImpactCity
The Hague

"Being an EEPA shortlisted project is a great recognition. ImpactCity is proud to be a leading impact ecosystem in Europe. We believe it is important to join forces to amplify entrepreneurship and impact to contribute to the Sustainable Development Goals (UN). This award encourages us to continue our work to stimulate doing good and doing business."





"It brings great satisfaction knowing that our work with Roma people has been acknowledged and is appreciated and it proves that whatever difficulties there are, you should not give up."

Zodpovedné podnikanie prístupné pre všetkých

"Zodpovedné podnikanie prístupné pre všetkých" is an initiative that supports the entrepreneurship of disadvantaged groups such as the unemployed, and in particular the long-term unemployed, migrants, people with disabilities, and marginalised ethnic groups.

It aims to provide work for everyone regardless of their origin. It has a special focus on integrating Roma people into the Slovak workforce.

This has the knock-on effect of encouraging Roma children to attend school which, in turn, has a positive impact on their future employment prospects.



Marcela Tokošová

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www.kovotvarvd.sk

Slepota ni ovira za podjetništvo

"Slepota ni ovira za podjetništvo" is an initiative being implemented by Technology Park Primorska to identify business and employment opportunities for the blind and visually impaired, in cooperation with the Inter-municipal Association of the Blind and Visually Impaired Nova Gorica.

It develops the entrepreneurial competencies of its participants and advises them in setting up a new business.

The programme also develops the skills of the blind and visually impaired, who are then motivated to take on tasks independently and either set up their own company or make a more active contribution to the company in which they will be employed.



"We are proud that the project, which is recognised as successful among the blind and visually impaired and other stakeholders, has also received state approval. Being shortlisted for a European Award is additional motivation for further development of this innovative initiative and consequently for further development of entrepreneurship in this vulnerable group."

Regina Podberšič, Project Manager

Regina.podbersic@primorski-tp.si

www.primorski-tp.si



2020 NATIONAL WINNERS

PROMOTING THE ENTREPRENEURIAL SPIRIT

BULGARIA	The Successful People Entrepreneurship Club	Baba Tonka High School of Mathematics	
DENMARK	Open Entrepreneurship	Open Entrepreneurship	www.open-entrepreneurship.com
ESTONIA	VIVITA Creativity Accelerator for Kids and Youth	VIVITA Estonia OÜ	www.vivita.ee
FINLAND	Ideabutton	The Enterprise Agency of Central Finland	www.ideanappi.fi
FRANCE	Atlantic Futures	Atlantic Cities	www.atlanticcities.eu
GREECE	'Demokritos': Innovation Ecosystem for Sustainable Entrepreneurship	National Centre for Scientific Research 'Demokritos'	www.demokritos.gr
HUNGARY	Up academy bootcamp	UP academy	www.upacademy.hu
MONTENEGRO	Stock Market of Entrepreneurial Ideas- IDEALAND	University of Donja Gorica (UDG)	www.preduzetnistvo.me
ROMANIA	Innovation Camp	The Municipality of Cluj-Napoca and Transilvania IT Cluster	www.transilvaniait.ro
SLOVENIA	festINNO - festival of INNOVATION	Interreg Italy-Slovenia cross-border cooperation program	www.fm-kp.si

INVESTING IN ENTREPRENEURIAL SKILLS

BELGIUM	Het internet. Ook uw zaak.	Flanders Innovation & Entrepreneurship (Agentschap Innoveren & Ondernemen)	www.hetinternetookuwzaak.be
CYPRUS	The Entrepreneurial Journey	Junior Achievement Cyprus	www.jacyprus.org
ESTONIA	Mobile Workshops	Merkuur OY	www.merkuur.eu
FRANCE	Le PORTAIL DU REBOND	Le Groupement d'intérêt associatif, le PORTAIL DU REBOND	www.portaildurebond.eu
GREECE	Blue Aegean	University of the Aegean	www.aegean.gr
HUNGARY	Chamber for businesses subject" at Széchenyi István University for the development of entrepreneurial knowledge and competences, entrepreneurship promotion	Chamber of Commerce and Industry for Győr-Moson-Sopron County	www.gymsmkik.hu
IRELAND	Engenuity Engineering Cluster Midlands	Local Enterprise Office Westmeath	www.localenterprise.ie
LATVIA	The establishment of airBaltic Pilot Academy	AS Air Baltic Corporation	www.pilotacademy.com
LITHUANIA	Kaunas Startups	Kaunas IN	www.kaunasin.lt
SERBIA	StartUp center Čačak	Science and technology park Čačak	www.ntpcacak.rs
TURKEY	InovaTIM Artificial Intelligence, Innovation and Entrepreneurship Trainings in High Schools	Turkish Exporters Assembly	www.tim.org.tr

IMPROVING THE BUSINESS ENVIRONMENT

CYPRUS	Establishment of the Cyprus Marine and Maritime Institute	Municipality of Larnaka	www.larnaka.org.cy
FINLAND	Business Espoo – Helping companies thrive	City of Espoo	www.businessespoo.com
GERMANY	Start-up BW Local – Landeswettbewerb für gründungsfreundliche Kommunen	Ministry of Economics, Labour and Housing Baden-Württemberg	www.startupbw.de
IRELAND	Business Support Funds	South Dublin County Council / Local Enterprise Office South Dublin	www.sdcc.ie
ITALY	Early Warning Europe	Unione Industriale di Torino	www.ui.torino.it
ROMANIA	Romanian Business Transfer Eco-system	TradeX – Business Transfer	www.trade-x.ro
SLOVAKIA	INOVATO – Entrepreneurship and Innovation Center	ŠVEC a SPOL., s.r.o.	www.inovato.sk
SPAIN	BIND 4.0 – Basque Industry 4.0 Accelerator Program	Basque Government	www.bind40.com
UKRAINE	#StartBusinessChallenge (SBC)	Better Regulation Delivery Office (BRDO)	www.sbc.regulation.gov.ua

SUPPORTING THE INTERNATIONALISATION OF BUSINESS

BELGIUM	Digital Wallonia International	Wallonia Export-Investment Agency avec l'Agence du Numérique	www.digitalwallonia.be
PORTUGAL	Portugal Bike Value	ABIMOTA, National Association of Bicycle, Moped, Motorcycle and Accessories Manufacturers in partnership with University of Aveiro	www.abimota.pt
TURKEY	Bilkent CYBERPARK ICT Cluster	Bilkent CYBERPARK	www.cyberpark.com.tr
UKRAINE	Nationwide educational program "Export REvolution Ukraine"	The State Institution "Export Promotion Office of Ukraine"	www.epo.org.ua

SUPPORTING THE DEVELOPMENT OF GREEN MARKETS AND RESOURCE EFFICIENCY

GERMANY	Greentech.Ruhr	Business Metropole Ruhr GmbH	www.greentech.ruhr
MALTA	MBB Energy Ecosystem	Malta Business Bureau	www.mbb.org.mt
NETHERLANDS	ImpactCity The Hague	Municipality of The Hague	www.impactcity.nl
SPAIN	"Granollers goes into symbiosis"	Granollers Mercat (Ayuntamiento de Granollers)	www.canmuntanyola.cat
SWEDEN	Project Energy services	EESA, Energy efficiency suppliers association	www.eef.se

RESPONSIBLE AND INCLUSIVE ENTREPRENEURSHIP

AUSTRIA	Taugl – zammbringa zammkemma	Gemeinde St. Koloman und Taugl	www.taugl.online
DENMARK	The Triple Helix of EdTech	EdTech Denmark	www.edtechdenmark.dk
ITALY	Emergency Management Program	Piccola Industria Confindustria	www.confindustriapge.it
LATVIA	"Diversity is the Power"	Society Integration Foundation in co-operation with the foundation "Ventspils High Technology Park"	www.sif.gov.lv
LITHUANIA	"Palanga's Citizen Card" ("Palangiškio kortelė")	Palanga City Municipality	www.palanga.lt
MALTA	Treasures by Inspire	Inspire Foundation	www.inspire.org.mt
NETHERLANDS	Social Enterprise NL	Social Enterprise NL	www.social-enterprise.nl
PORTUGAL	HOSPES by AHP - Digital Plataform	AHP - Portuguese Hotels Association in partnership with Tourism of Portugal	www.hospes.pt
SLOVAKIA	Zodpovedné podnikanie prístupné pre všetkých	Kovotvar v.d.	www.kovotvarvd.sk
SLOVENIA	Slepota ni ovira za podjetništvo	Primorski tehnološki park	www.primorski-tp.si

PAST GRAND JURY PRIZE WINNERS

The European Enterprise Promotion Awards were launched in 2006 and since that time there has been one Grand Jury Prize Winner in each annual competition. Past Grand Jury Prize Winners include:

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



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. They then wrote the book, designed the look of it, published it, marketed it and sold 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



2017 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. During the festivals, entrepreneurs are offered on-site support along with networking opportunities and follow-up guidance plus all the necessary support to successfully launch their ideas on to the market.

www.innofest.co



2018 Lean Landing, Denmark

Lean Landing developed and implemented an innovative and lasting soft-landing network between micro SMEs, business incubators and business development organisations in six North Sea countries. The soft-landing network enables SMEs to break into international markets via direct discussions with potential customers and partners in the target country. The project focuses on micro SMEs and early internationalisation, as opposed to the traditional focus on medium sized SMEs. Traditionally, SMEs rely on detailed and lengthy market studies before attempting to enter, however through Lean Landing they can directly learn the local experience and increase their knowledge of incubators in several countries.

www.vhsj.dk



2019 Green PAC iLab, Netherlands

At GreenPAC iLab, new entrepreneurs in the plastics industry are supported to help them start their businesses and achieve sustainable and circular business models. The project functions as a community where entrepreneurs with innovative ideas for a plastic product or service are coached and given access to a network of professionals that help with feasibility studies, research and product development. Through collaboration with plastics professionals and research groups, the GreenPAC iLab is fostering a new generation of plastics entrepreneurs guided by circular and sustainable values. To date, 40 start-ups have received assistance and 52 jobs have been created.

www.greenpacilab.nl



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



**European 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>



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



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



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



SMEunited is the association of Crafts and SMEs in Europe with around 70 member organisations from over 30 European countries. SMEunited represents national cross-sectoral Craft and SME federations, European SME branch organisations and associate members. Combined, it represents more than 12 million enterprises with around 55 million employees across Europe. SMEunited is also a recognised employers' organisation and European Social Partner. They are a not-for-profit and non-partisan organisation.

<https://smeunited.eu/en>

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 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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[Website](http://www.eeepa.eu)



European Enterprise Promotion Awards

Building a sustainable and
resilient future together

Internal Market, Industry,
Entrepreneurship
and SMEs