

## FAQ - REGIOSTARS AWARDS COMPETITION 2018

### 1. What are the categories?

There are five RegioStars<sup>1</sup> Award categories for 2018:

1. **Supporting smart industrial transition**
2. **Achieving sustainability through low carbon emissions**
3. **Creating better access to public services**
4. **Tackling migration challenges**
5. **Topic of the year 2018: Investing in cultural heritage**

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

### 2. When is the deadline?

The deadline for submitting applications is 15 April 2018, midnight

### 3. Is there a maximum number of applications?

Yes. Maximum two applications per operational programme can be submitted. This is why the managing authority has to give its endorsement to the project. If the managing authority in charge of the 2007-2013 programme has ceased to exist or changed, the managing authority that is in charge of the 2014-2020 programme that succeeds the 2007-2013 programme should endorse the application.

If the same authority is in charge of several programmes, it should make sure that there are not more than 2 projects submitted per operational programme to the RegioStars Awards. If successive programmes (2007-2013 and 2014-2020) cover the same territory and in essence the same themes, there should nevertheless be only 2 projects per category presented for the entire timespan since 2007.

### 4. Who should submit the application?

Applications must be submitted by the project manager with the endorsement of the Managing Authority. The endorsement form to be filled in by the managing authority is available on the application platform or in part III of the Word application form.

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<sup>1</sup> [http://ec.europa.eu/regional\\_policy/en/regio-stars-awards/](http://ec.europa.eu/regional_policy/en/regio-stars-awards/)

## **5. In which language can the application be submitted?**

The application form is available in English, French and German and should preferably be completed in English, but can also be submitted in any other official EU language if necessary. You can get free of charge a machine translation into English via this web-page: [https://ec.europa.eu/info/resources-partners/machine-translation-public-administrations-mtec\\_en](https://ec.europa.eu/info/resources-partners/machine-translation-public-administrations-mtec_en). Please, be also aware that in case a translation from the original language to English is not provided, the jury will work based on a simple machine translation.

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

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

## **7. Can a project which started before 2008 be submitted?**

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

## **8. Can a recent project be submitted?**

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

## **9. How can one know that the project is eligible for the RegioStars?**

The project should be co-financed by the European Regional Development Fund (ERDF)<sup>2</sup> (including Interreg), Cohesion Fund (CF)<sup>3</sup> and European Social Fund (ESF)<sup>4</sup> or the Instrument for Pre-Accession Assistance (IPA)<sup>5</sup>. Also projects and initiatives that combine ERDF or CF with the other ESI Funds (ESF or EMFF or EAFRD) with directly managed EU funds (e.g. Horizon 2020, LIFE, COSME, CEF, EaSI, etc.) or with EFSI are welcome. Last, projects must have first received EU funds from ERDF, CF, ESF or IPA to be eligible, e.g. it is good if you submit a H2020 or a FP7 project taking place in a previously ERDF funded research infrastructure.

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<sup>2</sup> [http://ec.europa.eu/regional\\_policy/en/funding/erdf](http://ec.europa.eu/regional_policy/en/funding/erdf)

<sup>3</sup> [http://ec.europa.eu/regional\\_policy/en/funding/cohesion-fund/](http://ec.europa.eu/regional_policy/en/funding/cohesion-fund/)

<sup>4</sup> [http://ec.europa.eu/regional\\_policy/en/funding/social-fund/](http://ec.europa.eu/regional_policy/en/funding/social-fund/)

<sup>5</sup> [http://ec.europa.eu/regional\\_policy/en/funding/ipa/](http://ec.europa.eu/regional_policy/en/funding/ipa/)

**10. Can the application be sent by email?**

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

**11. Does the application have to be submitted in one step? Can the application be saved and completed at a later date?**

Yes. Every applicant can save their progress at any stage in order to complete or correct the application at any time before 15 April 2018 23:59:59 CET. The application will only be finalised once you click on 'submit'.

**12. Why does the application form contain two points where project descriptions have to be submitted?**

The short, catchy project description requested under STEP 1 - summary of information on the application platform or under point I/3 in the Word application form will be used for communication purposes. Please provide here a description which demonstrates to the wider public in an easily understandable way why your project is exceptional and how it contributes to improving the life of European citizens.

Under STEP 3 - description of project on the application platform or point II/1 in the Word application form you can provide a longer, professional project description with all the relevant information you deem necessary for the jury to evaluate your project.

**13. What is requested under the impact of the project under STEP 4 - description of the project on the application platform or point II/5 in the Word application form?**

Please submit here a description of the activities and results that can be attributed to your submitted project. We suggest to write this section of the application form while thinking of all the positive effects that would not have happened in case the project would not have been implemented.

**14. What technical requirements do the images submitted have to meet?**

You are requested to submit high-resolution pictures that are going to be used on various communication channels, for instance in printed materials, online and for an exhibition, both during and after the competition itself. These pictures should not be less than 300 dpi or 10 MB.

### **15. How does the jury evaluation process look like?**

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

Please carefully read also the guide for applicants in the sections related to the eligibility criteria and award criteria for further details.

### **16. What happens if the project is selected as a finalist?**

All finalists are invited to the Award Ceremony in Brussels on 9 October 2018 and will receive a certificate and a medal. They will also be included in a brochure, published by the European Commission as well as in the online database of best practices on the InfoRegio<sup>6</sup> website. This database is used when selecting projects for Commissioners visits, interviews, good practice examples in magazines or press articles, communication campaigns on social media, etc.

### **17. What happens if the project is selected as a RegioStars winner?**

All winners (one per category) are invited to the Award Ceremony in Brussels on 9 October 2018. The project manager and a representative from the managing authority will receive a RegioStars trophy and a certificate from the European Commissioner for Regional Policy, Corina Crețu, and the Presidents of the RegioStars jury and will be invited to present their project during a press-event. For each winner a short video is also produced, which will be unveiled during the ceremony and published online, followed by a promotional campaign.

### **18. When will the RegioStars Awards ceremony take place?**

This year's RegioStars award ceremony will take place on Tuesday 9 October during the 2018 European Week of Regions and Cities<sup>7</sup>.

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<sup>6</sup> [http://ec.europa.eu/regional\\_policy/en/projects](http://ec.europa.eu/regional_policy/en/projects)

<sup>7</sup> [www.regions-and-cities.europa.eu](http://www.regions-and-cities.europa.eu)