

Европейски награди за предприемачество
Evropské ceny za podnikání
Den europæiske virksomhedspris
Die Europäischen Unternehmerpreise
Euroopa ettevõtlusauhinnad
Ευρωπαϊκά Επιχειρηματικά Βραβεία
European Enterprise Awards
Premios Europeos de la Empresa
Prix européens de l'Esprit d'Entreprise
Premi Impresa Europea
Eiropas Uzņēmējdarbības veicināšanas balvas
Europos Verslininkystės Apdovanojimai
Európai Vállalkozás Díj
Premji Ewropej għall-Intrapriża
Europese Ondernemingsprijzen
Europejskie Nagrody Przedsiębiorczości
Prémios Europeus de Iniciativa Empresarial
Premiile Europene pentru Initiative Antreprenoriale
Európske podnikateľské ocenenia
Evropske nagrade za podjetništvo
Yrittävä Eurooppa -palkinnot
Europeiska näringslivspriserna



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The European Enterprise Awards are organised by the European Commission's Directorate General for Enterprise and Industry

Website: <http://ec.europa.eu/enterprise/entrepreneurship/smes/awards>

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Introduction

Today, even more than ever, we need new solutions that invigorate business, encourage new start-ups, safeguard jobs and create a more entrepreneurial culture.



350 national entries have set up ambitious projects and I wish to pay tribute to the imagination and courage of the project leaders to come up with new ways of supporting entrepreneurship. I am grateful to the national contact points who have been actively engaged in their country and organised the selection of the national candidates. Finally, 47 have been selected for participating in the European Competition.

The continuing success of former participants is the best proof of the added-value this competition brings. For example, the Bilbao City Council (Lan Ekintza-Bilbao) – winner of the 2007 Grand Jury Prize – has already doubled the size of its innovative urban renewal project that offers premises for business use in central Bilbao. Winning the prize has also encouraged replication elsewhere in the city itself, including the suburbs, and has spurred on co-operation with other organisations and the Basque regional government.

This year, the European Enterprise Awards are part of the first European SME Week – a campaign to promote entrepreneurship across Europe and to inform entrepreneurs about support available for them at European, national and local level. This will give the winning projects an additional platform of over 500 events to spread their bright ideas to an even wider audience.

The innovative approaches demonstrated by the 2009 European Enterprise Award winners provide a wealth of concrete examples and ideas for actions at the regional and local level that can serve as inspiration for others.

I invite everybody to make best use of the good experiences and best practices which are presented in this competition to reach our common objective – making the EU a world-class environment for SMEs.

Günter Verheugen
Vice-President of the European Commission,
Commissioner for Enterprise and Industry



The Jury

A high-level and experienced jury, comprising representatives from the worlds of business, government and academia, has reviewed the nominations and made awards in each category.

The independent jury includes a representative of academia, a business organisation, an entrepreneur from the Member State holding the 2008 Autumn European Council presidency, a high-level government representative of this year's Spring European Council presidency and the winner of the previous year's Jury's Grand Prize. There are also two permanent representatives, one from DG Enterprise and Industry, and one from the Committee of the Regions.

Members of the 2008/2009 Jury were:



Arnaldo Abruzzini
Secretary-General of Eurochambres



Lucio Gussetti
Director of the Directorate for Consultative Works, Committee of the Regions



Anders Lundström
Dr and President of Swedish Foundation for Small Business Research. Founder of IPREG, Innovative Policy Research for Economic Growth



Sophie de Menthon
President of ETHIC (Entreprises de Taille Humaine Indépendantes et de Croissance); member of the strategic committee of KPMG; and also a renowned writer and radio commentator.



Xavier Otxandiano
Representative of Spanish municipal development company Lan Ekintza-Bilbao, Bilbao – winner of the 2007 Jury's Grand Prize



Marie Pavlů
Deputy-Director of the Centre for Regional Development (CRD) of the Czech Republic and Director of the Enterprise Europe Network within the CRD



Maive Rute
Director, Promotion of SMEs' competitiveness, European Commission, DG Enterprise and Industry

Aims of the European Enterprise Awards

The European Enterprise Awards recognise and reward excellence in initiatives that support entrepreneurship at a regional level.

The objectives of the competition are to:

- Identify and recognise successful promoters of enterprise and entrepreneurship;
- Showcase best entrepreneurship policies and practices;
- Raise awareness of the added value of entrepreneurship within the market economy;
- Encourage and inspire potential entrepreneurs.

All European Union members and associate countries can nominate projects for the competition. Participants are drawn from towns, cities, regions and communities as well as public-private partnerships between public authorities and entrepreneurs, educational programmes and business organisations.

Candidates must show how their actions have incrementally facilitated business and boosted their region's economy during the two-year period prior to the award year.

Applications are judged against the following criteria:

- Originality and feasibility;
- Impact upon the local economy;
- Improvement in local stakeholder relations;
- Transferability to other regions across Europe.

A maximum of two nominees per country are selected to enter the European-level awards, with a winner and runner-up within each award category then chosen by an independent jury. These projects represent the best enterprise initiatives Europe has to offer.



EUROCHAMBRES

The Association of European Chambers of Commerce and Industry has member organisations in 45 countries representing a network of 2000 regional and local Chambers with over 19 million member companies. More than 90% of these enterprises are SMEs. Chamber members employ over 120 million employees. EUROCHAMBRES is the sole European body that serves the interests of every sector and every size of European business – due to the multisectoral membership of Chambers – and the only one so close to business, as a result of the Chambers' regional focus.



EURADA

The European Association of Regional Development Agencies is a non-profit-making organisation aiming to promote regional economic development through dialogue with the European Commission services, interchange of good practice among members, transnational co-operation among members, and regional development agencies as a concept. EURADA gathers some 150 development agencies from across the EU, as well as strong international links through the Economic Development Council (IEDC) and through economic development networks with China, Japan, Australia and New Zealand.

EUROPEAN UNION



Committee of the Regions

EU Committee of the Regions

The Brussels-based Committee of the Regions (CoR) 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. The European Commission and Council of Ministers are obliged to consult the CoR's 344 members on proposed EU laws across a wide range of policy areas, including employment, transport and the environment. The assembly can also be consulted by the European Parliament.



EUROCITIES

This network, founded in 1986, brings together the local governments of more than 130 large cities in over 30 European countries. EUROCITIES represents the interests of its members and engages in dialogue with the European institutions across a wide range of policy areas affecting cities. These include: economic development, the environment, transport and mobility, social affairs, culture, the information and knowledge society, and services of general interest.

Jury's Grand Prize

A special prize awarded to the most creative and inspiring entrepreneurship initiative in Europe

Winning the Jury's Grand Prize in 2007 led to important media coverage and a 30% increase in the number of approaches to our scheme in the following three or four months. We have now doubled the size of the project with some 54 properties involved in the urban renewal scheme and are talking to other public organisations interested in collaborating with us. Moreover, the scheme is being replicated in other areas of Bilbao and we have gained the strength to co-operate with the Basque regional government."

Xavier Otxandiano

Lan Ekintza-Bilbao, Bilbao – winner of the 2007 Jury's Grand Prize



Winner: Jury's Grand Prize

The Scarborough Renaissance Partnership

Scarborough Renaissance Partnership,
North Yorkshire, United Kingdom



Seaside renaissance brought about through creative and cultural enterprises

Formed in 2002, the Scarborough Renaissance Partnership has transformed the north-east England seaside town of Scarborough by pioneering renaissance – turning a seasonal economy with winter unemployment 50% higher than summer into a year-round economy with only a 10% difference between summer and winter employment. Some 100 jobs have been created through public investment, facilitating the creation of another 100 jobs in the private sector in the past two years. And the new entrepreneurial climate is set to boost employment in the next five years.

The project won the 2008 Enterprising Britain award, due to its success in changing the fortunes of the town and making it synonymous with enterprise. This success was based on the active involvement of the community in the decision-making process, and the development of a creative and cultural sector in the town.

Development of the Woodend Creative Workspace, a state-of-the-art centre for the creative and cultural industries, and a 40-ha business park offering 100 000 m² of new business space with room for 2000 jobs is enabling new business and enterprise development to take place in the town.

Further information

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Entrepreneurship Promotion Award

Recognising actions and initiatives at national, regional or local level that promote an entrepreneurial mindset and a culture that encourages creativity, innovation and risk-acceptance.

Runner-up

Engaging the entrepreneurs of tomorrow, Agence de Stimulation Economique, Liège, Belgium

The Agence de Stimulation Economique (ASE) was established to raise awareness of entrepreneurship among young Walloon people. Its entrepreneurship 'sales force' is composed of teachers on secondment who visit secondary schools and higher education institutions in the region as ambassadors for entrepreneurship. As a result of these visits, schools enter into a relationship with the ASE, which then helps them promote entrepreneurship in education using a variety of tools.

In the two years of the project's existence, half of the schools visited have integrated entrepreneurship in their curriculum. By 2009, all 650 of Wallonia's secondary and higher education institutions will have a relationship with the ASE team. To support the project, a widespread information campaign – 'tous des as' ('everyone is an ace') – was carried out at the start of the 2008 school year with posters in staffrooms, leaflets, educational handouts, inserts in the specialist press and a radio advert.

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www.as-e.be

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Winner: Entrepreneurship Promotion Award

Instituto IDEAS

Universidad Politécnica de Valencia
(UPV), Valencia, Spain



Supporting innovative ideas through co-operation

As Spain's first university enterprise support programme, the Instituto IDEAS helps generate new business opportunities and innovative technology-based companies in Valencia. It focuses on helping young entrepreneurs get their own business projects off the ground.

It works towards its aim by: building networks between stakeholders in the Valencian Innovation System; co-operating with centres and institutions to foster an entrepreneurial spirit; promoting and developing new research and educational projects to do with entrepreneurship and business start-ups; and creating a mindset in the university community for enterprise creation.

The project has had a significant economic impact as well as providing training and support for e-commerce through an innovative virtual shopping mall 'Parque Innova'. Since 1992, the Instituto IDEAS has helped create 400 innovative companies and enabled the creation of 4 000 jobs in the Valencia Region.

Further information
www.ideas.upv.es

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Red Tape Reduction Award

Recognising measures at all levels
to simplify legislation and administrative
procedures for businesses, especially SMEs.

Runner-up

Reduction of statistical reporting burden to respondents, Lithuanian Statistics, Vilnius, Lithuania

To reduce the statistical reporting burden, Lithuanian Statistics has established a permanent inter-institutional commission which monitors and assesses progress made in this area. In the last five years, it has reduced markedly the time and number of statistical reports for businesses, with the number of reports cut from 171 in 2003 to 125 in 2008. And statistical report forms are now tested before issue.

In 2008, the organisation launched a section on its Internet website where it announced the burden-reduction policy, and published information on the implementation of burden-reduction measures. A specialised web site e-formos.stat.gov.lt offers an opportunity for registered respondents to find electronic forms, their submission schedules and information about data transfer.

Further information
www.stat.gov.lt

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STATISTIKOS DEPARTAMENTAS
STATISTICS LITHUANIA



Winner: Red Tape Reduction Award

ANTI-BUREAU

Miskolc Holding Zrt., Miskolc, Hungary



Eliminating bureaucracy in the interests of efficiency

Miskolc Holding Zrt was established in 2006 as a simpler, centralised operation to manage the property and services of the local government in the north-east city of Miskolc – the third-largest in Hungary. Responsibilities range from operating heating, sewage and water services, to refuse treatment, and even public transport and parking.

The objective is to operate as a true service organisation, meeting everyday needs and dealing with everyday issues, while making the administration related to the work and services of the whole group of companies clearer for the local residents.

As a result, previous often bureaucratic systems have been eliminated, and the group's operations have become more cost effective. This is assisted by centralised customer services, where issues relating to half of the member companies can be dealt with in one place, in a concentrated way.

Further information
www.miskolcholding.hu

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Enterprise Development Award

Recognising innovative policies that promote enterprise and attract investment, particularly in disadvantaged areas

"Since winning the EEA award in 2007, we have increased visibility in the press and media, gained greater credibility when presenting our project and obtained a better image and recognition from other organisations. And we received a request from the Ministry of Rhineland to expand our project from the region of Trier to the whole Rhineland. of materials and renewable energies."

1,2,3, Go, Business Initiative a.s.b.l.
Winner of the Enterprise Support Award 2007

Joint runners-up

Home support programme for entrepreneurs (PAED), Dept. of Industry, Trade & Tourism of the Aragón Regional Government, Zaragoza, Spain

PAED was set up to create an enterprise network in rural areas. It gives entrepreneurs access to tailored professional advice in their town or place of residence via a network of agents throughout the region. Some 1 478 companies have been created, employing 2 972 people, with a further 253 companies and 858 jobs currently in the pipeline.



Further information
www.aragon.es

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Soho Solo, Gers Chamber of Commerce and Industry, Gers, France

Gers Chamber of Commerce and Industry coordinates Soho Solo, which offers support services such as assistance in mounting projects and seeking funding, support and advice on development and promotion of activities, and assistance in seeking accommodation to independent entrepreneurs, teleworkers, home-based employees known as 'Sohos' (derived from the English expression Small Office – Home Office) and freelancers, known as 'Solos', wishing to settle and work in Gers.



Further information
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Winner: Enterprise Development Award

Gothia Science Park

Enterprise and Community Building Sector, Municipality of Skövde, Sweden



Science park provides fertile setting for the growth of innovative businesses

The Enterprise and Community Building Sector of the Skövde municipality (NSE) is the driving force behind the Gothia Science Park (GSP). This is an important element in diversification in a region heavily dependent on just two large automotive engineering plants. The goal was to attract companies developing information technology (IT) services and products and create employment for graduates from the University of Skövde.

To support business development in the region the project introduced three activities:

1. An incubator, which ensures newly formed enterprises establish themselves on the market as quickly as possible;
2. A technology park, which offers a creative environment close to researchers, students and other enterprises, making it the perfect setting for businesses to grow; and
3. A collaboration platform, which serves as a meeting place for researchers, companies and the community, and provides support for developing new projects.

This innovative environment has resulted in considerable success, particularly in computer gaming, with five games already published. It now consists of 50 businesses and 300 employees.

Further information

www.skovde.se

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Investment in Skills Award

Recognising initiatives to improve entrepreneurial, vocational, technical and managerial skills

"Winning in 2007 was a great acknowledgment of our work's quality and of our vision that entrepreneurship is made of behaviour skills. Those skills are present in children and can be stimulated from an early age. This is a precondition for the success of training in entrepreneurship. The award also increased visibility in the media and gave international contacts. However we are still looking for partners to implement Cap'Ten in other countries."

ICHEC-PME, Belgium
Winner of the 2007
Investment in People Award

Runner-up

Unternehmergegymnasium Bayern, Entrepreneurial Grammar School Bavaria (UG Bavaria), Pfarrkirchen, Germany

UG Bavaria is a grammar school specialising in entrepreneurial education that helps students from 10th grade onwards to build up an independent living, together with leadership skills, while completing their school qualifications. Students benefit from workshops with experienced entrepreneurs, as well as a network of 80 companies and educational institutions. Students also get hands-on experience with projects such as providing food for their school lunch.

Further information
www.unternehmergegymnasium.de

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Special mention

Commune of Bieliny – Our Power Spot, Bieliny, Poland

This project uses the cultural and folklore heritage of the Świętokrzyskie Mountains to produce a unique tourism experience. Through field games, tourists can live out scenarios based on local legends. This enterprise represents a new source of income for the community and has also resulted in a return to the roots of the region's cultural heritage.

Further information
www.bieliny.pl

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Winner: Investment in Skills Award

Knowledge, skills, support – from entrepreneur to entrepreneur

The Women's Enterprise Agency
Helsinki, Finland



Entrepreneur-to-entrepreneur support levels up the playing field

Since 1996, the Women's Enterprise Agency in Helsinki has encouraged and supported women to become entrepreneurs. The agency recognised that the threshold to become an entrepreneur is higher for women than for men. Adopting the 'one entrepreneur supporting another' operational model, the project has given expert mentoring to new and growing small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs).

The project has provided cost-free advice for more than 400 women. Some 250 women planning to start a company participated in 16 'introduction to entrepreneurship' information events; nearly 200 participated in 15 practical information sessions; and 60 took part in four three-month courses on entrepreneurship. The project has also had success with group mentoring, particularly to migrant workers and to those preparing for the Further Qualification for Entrepreneurs exam.

In addition, the agency has worked in co-operation with groups in several other countries – including Lithuania, Latvia and Mozambique.

Further information
www.nyek.fi

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Responsible and Inclusive Entrepreneurship Award

Recognising responsible entrepreneurship initiatives that promote corporate social responsibility and sustainable business practices in the social and/or environmental domain, and promote entrepreneurship for disadvantaged groups

Runner-up

Pottery Village, the Nidzica Development Foundation (NIDA), Nidzica, Poland

NIDA established the 'Pottery Village' in 2005 as part of the 'Towards the Polish model of social economy – building new Lisków' project under the EU EQUAL Programme. It is an innovative social enterprise, which promotes and develops entrepreneurship among the unemployed rural population.

The project offers ideas for extra-agricultural economic activities, based on vanishing traditional crafts and customs. The result is the development of products and services, under one trade mark – from pottery, tailoring, handmade paper production, agro tourism and ecotourism to restoration of antique houses. Of the 108 unemployed people who took part in the project, 45 found employment. The project has been replicated in other regions.

Further information
www.nida.pl

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Winner: Responsible and Inclusive Entrepreneurship Award

Getting people into work

The Waldkirch Employment and Qualification Company (WABE) Waldkirch, Germany



WABE achieves real success in the fight against unemployment

WABE is a non-profit public-private partnership founded in 2004 to fight unemployment in Waldkirch in Baden-Württemberg. It employs 50 people, 40 of whom were previously unemployed, but benefited from organisation's training programmes.

WABE relies on a local network of citizens, private enterprises and government authorities who help integrate unemployed people with special placement problems. A holistic approach of practical training, socio-pedagogical coaching and temporary placements has placed 300 unemployed people in local businesses. At any one time, some 165 unemployed persons are being trained.

Participating companies have had a good experience with the well-tailored, custom-fit placement of motivated and qualified employees by WABE. By recruiting employees through the organisation, transaction costs in employee selection are kept low for the companies.

Further information
www.wabe-waldkirch.de

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About DG Enterprise and Industry

The European Commission's Directorate-General for Enterprise and Industry 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.

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 Enterprise works with the business community to help develop innovative, competitive and responsible enterprise and with Member States to implement the Lisbon strategy in the Partnership for Growth and Jobs.

For more information visit:
http://ec.europa.eu/enterprise/index_en.htm

For more information on EU programmes, policies and funding for SMEs, visit:
<http://ec.europa.eu/enterprise/sme>

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