



FAQ – REGIOSTARS AWARDS COMPETITION 2016

1. What are the categories?

There are five RegioStars Award categories for 2016:

- Cat. 1 Smart Growth: Emerging opportunities in the global economy
- Cat. 2 Sustainable Growth: Circular Economy
- Cat. 3 Inclusive Growth: Integrated living – building inclusive and non-segregated communities
- Cat. 4 CityStar: Innovative solutions for sustainable urban development
- Cat. 5 Effective management: Making a difference by managing differently

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

2. When is the deadline?

The deadline for submitting applications is 15 April 2016 23:59:59 CET.

3. Is there a maximum number of applications?

There is maximum one application per category per region. In addition a region can be involved in applications relating to cross-border or territorial cooperation projects.

4. Who should submit the application?

Applications must be submitted by the relevant Managing Authority (national or regional) or by the project manager with the endorsement of the Managing Authority. In the case of direct submission by the project manager, an e-mail or a scanned document from the Managing Authority endorsing the project has to be provided.

5. In which language can I submit the application?

The application form should preferably be completed in English, but can also be submitted in French or German if necessary.

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 I submit a project which started before 2008?

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

8. Can I submit a recent project?

Yes, projects with a starting date after 1 January 2008 are eligible. However, the project should be sufficiently advanced (i.e. it can demonstrate progress in the achievement of the original objectives).

9. By which fund should my project be co-financed?

The project should be co-financed by the European Regional Development Fund, the Cohesion Fund, the European Social Fund or the Instrument for Pre-Accession Assistance (IPA). In category 5, also projects that consisted of an operation where a Managing Authority or intermediate body itself was the beneficiary are eligible, including if this goal has been accomplished through the use of Technical Assistance budget exclusively.

10. Can I send you my application by email?

To help you prepare your application, we provide the application form in Word format. However, as of this year, applications can no longer be sent in a Word document, but have to be submitted directly via the [online form on the RegioStars platform](#).

11. Do I have to complete my application in one step? Can I save my application and complete it at a later date?

You can come back to complete or correct your application at any time before 15 April 2016 23:59:59 CET as long as you have not yet clicked on 'submit'.

12. 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 have a look at the [guide for applicants](#) in the sections related to the eligibility criteria and award criteria.

13. What happens if my project gets selected as a finalist?

All finalists are invited to the Award Ceremony in Brussels on October 11th 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 Info regio website. This database is used when selecting projects for Commissioner visits, interviews, examples in magazines, etc.

14. What happens if my project gets selected as a RegioStars winner?

All winners (one per category) are invited to the Award Ceremony in Brussels on October 11th. The Project Manager and representative from the Managing Authority will receive a RegioStars trophy and a certificate from the European Commissioner for Regional Policy, Corina Crețu, and the President of the RegioStars jury and will be invited to present their project during a press-conference. For each winner a short video is also produced, which will be published online, followed by a promotional campaign on social media.

15. When will the RegioStars Awards ceremony take place?

This year's RegioStars award ceremony will take place on Tuesday, October 11, during the [2016 European Week of Regions and Cities](#).