



## **13 nominees shortlisted for European Enterprise Awards 2008/09**

***A short list of nominees has been selected for the 2008 European Enterprise Awards (EEA). The competition recognises and rewards public initiatives supporting entrepreneurship across Europe. A high profile jury, made up of European entrepreneurs, leading business people and academics as well as members of the European Commission and national governments, met in Brussels in January 2009 to review 47 nominees in five categories. Final results will be announced on 13 May 2009 at a ceremony marking the end of the European SME week in Prague, to which all nominees are invited. The winners of this annual event act as role models across the regions of Europe and provide excellent examples how to create environments where entrepreneurs and entrepreneurship can flourish.***

*“Winning the Jury Grand Prize in 2007 led to much increased visibility for our services in the media and a noticeable growth in interest with 30% more approaches in the following quarter,”* adds Xabier Otxandiano of Lan Ekintza-Bilbao, the Spanish municipal project for the development of premises for business use in Bilbao, and member of the 2008 jury. *“As a result we have already doubled the size of our project and are talking to other public organisations interested in collaborating with us.”*

More than 350 national, regional and local authorities – including towns, cities and regions as well as public-private partnerships– competed in the national round of the 2008 awards. Participating countries – EU Member States and Norway – could select up to two candidates for the European competition. The final 47 nominees represented a wide variety of projects that are successful in facilitating business and supporting entrepreneurship across Europe.

From these final nominees 13 candidate regions were short listed for the 2008 awards covering entrepreneurship promotion, red tape reduction, enterprise

support, investment in skills, and responsible and inclusive entrepreneurship. Short listed are (see also Memo):

Belgium	<i>A team of entrepreneurship awareness-raising workers</i> , Agence de Stimulation Economique (Economic Stimulation Agency), Liège
Finland	<i>Knowledge, skills, support – from entrepreneur to entrepreneur</i> , The Women’s Enterprise Agency, Helsinki
France	<i>Gers Soho Solo project</i> , Gers Chamber of Commerce and Industry, Gers
Germany	- <i>Unternehmergeymnasium Bayern: Unternehmertum mit Abitur (Entrepreneurial Grammar School Bavaria: Entrepreneurship Education and School Graduation in one Go)</i> Unternehmergeymnasium Bayern, Pfarrkirchen - <i>Getting people into work</i> , Waldkirch Employment and Qualification Company (WABE), Waldkirch
Hungary	<i>ANTI-BUREAU</i> , Miskolc Holding Zrt., Miskolc
Lithuania	<i>Reduction of statistical reporting burden to respondents</i> , Department of Statistics to the Government of the Republic of Lithuania (Lithuanian Statistics), Vilnius
Poland	- <i>Commune of Bieliny – Our Power Spot</i> , Commune of Bieliny, Bieliny - <i>Pottery Village</i> , the Nidzica Development Foundation (NIDA), Nidzica
Spain	<i>Home support programme for entrepreneurs (PAED)</i> , Department of Industry, Trade and Tourism of the Aragón Regional Government, Zaragoza <i>Instituto IDEAS</i> , Universidad Politécnica de Valencia (UPV), Valencia
Sweden	<i>Gothia Science Park</i> , Enterprise and Community Building Sector, Municipality of Skövde
United Kingdom	<i>Scarborough Renaissance Partnership</i> , Scarborough Renaissance Partnership, North Yorkshire, United Kingdom

The **objectives of the awards** are to:

- Identify and recognise successful activities that **promote enterprise and entrepreneurship**;
- Showcase and share examples of **best entrepreneurship policies** and practices;
- Develop a **greater awareness of the role entrepreneurs** play in society; and
- Encourage and inspire **potential entrepreneurs**.

The May Award ceremony is being organised by the European Commission, the Committee of the Regions and the Czech EU Presidency. An exhibition of the short-listed initiatives will enable nominees to showcase their projects, while an interactive workshop will offer the chance for the laureates to present their winning practices.

For more information, please consult:

[http://ec.europa.eu/enterprise/entrepreneurship/smes/awards/index\\_en.htm](http://ec.europa.eu/enterprise/entrepreneurship/smes/awards/index_en.htm)

