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# REGIOSTARS

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All you need to know about  
the renewed competition

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Gianluca COMUNIELLO and Hanna SÖDERSTRÖM, DG  
REGIO

Fatoumata SYLLA, WMH Project



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# REGIOSTARS 2023

# Renewed competition

- Competition categories aligned to Policy objectives (2021-2027)
- Focus on completed projects
- 2 phases selection process
  - First stage: an assessment of all applications on paper and a selection of 5 finalists by category by an independent jury.
  - Second stage: a 'live' presentation of the finalists in front of the jury after which the winners will be decided.
- Guide for applicants in all EU languages



# Competition categories

# A competitive and smart Europe

- Category 1 focuses on projects in support of Policy Objective 1, to achieve a competitive and smart Europe by promoting innovative and smart economic transformation and regional ICT connectivity.
- Including, but not limited to, good projects that
  - promote innovative and smart economic transformation and regional ICT connectivity,
  - enhance digitalisation processes and show innovative approaches to implementing RIS strategies involving stakeholders,
  - prepare European SMEs for competing in a globalised economy,
  - contribute to sustainable regional innovation systems and furthering the job market in the digital industries.
- Conversion table: TO 1; TO 2; TO 3.

# A green Europe

- Category 2 focusses on projects in support of Policy Objective 2, to achieve a green and resilient Europe promoting clean and fair energy transition, green and blue investment, the circular economy, climate change mitigation and adaptation, risk prevention and management, and sustainable urban mobility.
- Including, but not limited to, good projects that
  - promote a greener and more resilient Europe,
  - help achieve the EU's Green Deal goals of climate neutrality,
  - improve environmental conditions, air and water quality, promote sustainable agriculture, preserve environmental systems,
  - create an effective circular economy, enable transformation towards a resource- efficient economy or transitioning to renewables.
- Conversion table: TO 4; TO 5; TO 6

# A connected Europe

- Category 3 focusses on projects in support of Policy Objective 3, to enhance mobility and connectivity.
- Including, but not limited to, good projects that
  - support efficient, safe and environmentally friendly mobility solutions within the EU, and create the conditions for a competitive industry generating growth and jobs,
  - help achieve the goals of the Trans European Networks in the field of energy, transport or digital connectivity,
  - develop new energy or transport infrastructures, or the rehabilitate or upgrade existing ones,
  - develop safe, secure and sustainable high-performance infrastructure including Gigabit and 5G networks; increase capacity and resilience of digital backbone infrastructures; or the digitalisation of transport and energy networks.
- Conversion table: TO7



# A social and inclusive Europe

- Category 4 focusses on projects in support of Policy Objective 4, to achieve a more social and inclusive Europe by implementing the European Pillar of Social Rights.
- Including, but not limited to, good projects that
  - contribute to a more inclusive society at large, non-discrimination of any person, and gender equality within and beyond the EU,
  - support the 20 principles as well as of the three targets of the Action Plan of the European Pillar of Social Rights,
  - foster active inclusion of discriminated persons or persons at the risk of discrimination, ease the reintegration of disadvantaged persons into the labour market, contribute to gender equality and diversity,
  - engage with child, elderly, or health care, contribute to a good work-life balance.
- Conversion table: TO8, TO9, TO10

# A Europe closer to citizens

- Category 5 focusses on projects in support of Policy Objective 5, to foster the sustainable and integrated development of all types of territories and local initiatives.
- Including, but not limited to, good projects that
  - support the implementation of local and regional strategies, such as, for example, Sustainable Urban Development (SUD) strategies or territorial and local development strategies.
  - showcase specific areas of improvement for citizens daily life and support capacity building.
  - help the region encounter specific development challenges in a functional urban area or territory and develop specific place-based solutions for the citizens.
- Conversion table: ITI, CLLD, UIA

# Topic of the year: European Year of Skills

- Category 6 is devoted to the European Year of Skills. The European Union targets at enhancing upskilling and reskilling, as well as developing skills intelligence tools.
- Including, but not limited to, good projects that
  - support workers in need to acquire new skills and move to new jobs in a different sector of economy or in need to upskill to keep their job in a new work environment.
  - engage with labour market services to improve and innovate vocational trainings and education
  - support firms in upskilling and reskilling people and to re-integrate people into the labour market; in particular long term unemployed, women, as well as young people who are not in training or education.
  - enable to attract needed specialists and talent from third country.



# Eligibility criteria

# Eligibility of a project

- The application submitted via the online platform by **31.5.2023 23:59:59**.
- Applications must be **in an official EU language**.
- The application includes an **endorsement letter** of the Managing Authority.
- The project has received EU co-financing from the **ERDF, CF, ESF, JTF, INTERREG**, starting earliest on 1 January 2014.
- Only **completed projects** are considered.
- The project must **refer to one of the six award categories**. The same project cannot be submitted for several categories.



# Award criteria

# Evaluation of a project

- **Cohesion**

The contribution of the project to economic, social and territorial cohesion at large; with a supraregional to European perspective. A project's added value to in relation to cohesion will be evaluated here.

- **Impact**

The local and regional impact of the project and the quality of the final results. How did the project change something for the better in its region?

- **Innovation**

The innovative character of the project within the logic of the selected award category. What is new? What has not been done before? Innovation may be understood in economic, social and/or ecological terms.

# Evaluation of a project

- **Sustainability**

The potential of the project to last into the future, in terms of economic sustainability. Efforts of the project to live beyond the actual project life-time should be demonstrated.

- **Citizens**

How citizens and actors of civil society got involved in the development and/or implementation of the project.

- **Transferability**

The potential of the project to be transferred to other regions in Europe and, in the best case, to be upscaled and rolled out across the European Union.





# Competition platform

# Application-live



# Timeline & the second selection phase

# Timeline



# What the second phase of selection is about?

- It concerns up to 30 finalists (max. 5 per category)
- It happens during the EU Regions Week (11 October)
- It consists of two moments:
  - A public “on stage”: performance: project pitch of 5 minutes (in English)  
*(a training will be offered in September to the project representative doing the pitch)*
  - A face-to-face interview with the jurors of the specific category



# Final notes

# To get (or keep) the ball rolling

- Info regio: [https://ec.europa.eu/regional\\_policy/projects/regio-stars-awards\\_en](https://ec.europa.eu/regional_policy/projects/regio-stars-awards_en)
  - Information and visuals
- Competition platform: [www.regiostarsawards.eu/](http://www.regiostarsawards.eu/)
  - Apply here: create profile, fill-in the application form and submit
  - All materials available: Guide for applicants, application form, endorsement letter
- Contact: [contact@regiostarsawards.eu](mailto:contact@regiostarsawards.eu)
- Looking forward for your applications!





# Your questions



# Some questions already received

- Are REACT-EU projects eligible?
- Are UIA projects eligible?
- If the project was finished at the end of the year 2022, and the final report is due in spring 2023, but final payment is foreseen around May/June 2023 (possibly after the application deadline), is the project eligible?
- Is participation to the REGIOSTARS mandatory this year?

# Thank you



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