



European
Commission

EUROPEAN ENTERPRISE
PROMOTION AWARDS

EEPA

Presenting the 2022 Winners

Europe's enterprises of tomorrow:
Sustainable. Resilient. Digital.

SMEs are a crucial part of the economy	03
2022 Edition	04
Promoting the Entrepreneurial Spirit	06
Investing in Entrepreneurial Skills	08
Improving The Business Environment & Supporting The Digital Transition	10
Supporting the Internationalisation of Business	12
Supporting the Sustainable Transition	14
Responsible And Inclusive Entrepreneurship	16
Grand Jury Prize Winner	18
Special Mentions	20
2021 National Winners	21
The Jury	24
Understanding the judging process	27
What does it mean to become an EEPA winner	28
Past Grand Jury Prize Winners	30
The European Commission, DG Internal Market, Industry, Entrepreneurship and SMEs	32

SMEs are a crucial part of the economy

SMEs are independent companies with fewer than 250 employees and which have an annual turnover not exceeding EUR 50 million, and/or an annual balance sheet total not exceeding EUR 43 million. They provide two out of three private sector jobs, and account for more than half of value added. SMEs continue to form the bedrock of the European economy, with some 23 million companies employing 83 million people; and accounting for slightly more than 99.8% of all enterprises. 9 out of 10 enterprises are micro companies with fewer than 10 employees.

SME Strategy

At the centre of the Commission's action for small businesses is the 2020 SME Strategy for a sustainable and digital Europe. It aims to considerably increase the number of SMEs engaging in sustainable business practices as well as the number of SMEs employing digital technologies. Ultimately, the goal is that Europe becomes the most attractive place to start a small business, make it grow and scale-up in the single market and beyond. The strategy proposes actions under three pillars:

- Capacity building and support for the twin transition;
- Reducing the regulatory burden and improving market access to the Single Market and beyond;
- As well as improving access to finance.

These key areas of the strategy continue to be priorities for the coming years. The strategy builds on the very strong foundations of the EU's existing SME policy framework and support programmes, notably the 2008 Small Business Act.

For more information regarding SME policy of the European Commission, please visit:

https://ec.europa.eu/growth/smes_en

A Spin-Off: The European Enterprise Promotion Awards

The European Enterprise Promotion Awards support the aims of the Small Business Act and the SME Strategy by recognising innovation and rewarding the success of public bodies and public-private partnerships in promoting enterprise and entrepreneurship at a national, regional, and local level.

SME Envoys

The SME Envoys are a network of high-level public officials appointed by their national government, the network also features observers from European business organisations.

The SME Envoy network provides guidance to implement European SME policy in line with the strategic objectives of the Commission such as the twin transition to sustainability and digitalisation and the promotion of economic resilience in the recovery after the COVID-crisis. The network, first created by the Small Business Act in 2011, ensures that EU SME policy reaches SMEs at national level, and contributes to communicating SMEs grievances and concerns back to EU policy makers. The SME Envoy network is an important tool to ensure the smooth functioning of the partnership between the EU and Member States' level.

To find out more about the SME Envoy Network, please visit:

[SME envoys network \(europa.eu\)](https://ec.europa.eu/growth/smes_en)

2022 is the 16th edition of the European Enterprise Promotion Awards (EEPAs) and was once again a cause for celebration with the awards continuing to demonstrate and celebrate the pinnacle of innovation and entrepreneurship in Europe.

Every year brings forward new challenges for SMEs and those who support them and 2022 has been no exception. The COVID-19 pandemic, although somewhat in the background, still has an impact on SMEs, while facing significant labour shortages, high energy prices, disrupted supply chains and the issue of sustainability to address the climate change crisis.

The Russian war of aggression against Ukraine has also seen Europe mobilising to assist Ukrainian refugees wherever they can, not only with housing and general subsistence but also offering business support and training.

For projects to be innovative and successful in these difficult times, dedicated teams need to work hard. We are grateful to show our appreciation of this hard work with these awards, as is the SME Assembly's 2022 motto, "Europe's enterprises of tomorrow: Sustainable. Resilient. Digital".

There were 186 national projects in 2022 which resulted in a shortlist of 47 projects representing the strongest ideas from across Europe. During the SME Assembly, six projects were awarded as winners (including the Grand Jury Prize, Love to be Free from the Organisation for SME's and Self-Employed in Flanders Belgium - UNIZO, which was also a winner in the category - Investing in Entrepreneurial Skills). There were many interesting runners-up and two special mentions, all of whom you can find more information about in this compendium.

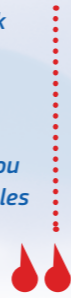


I congratulate all of the projects that have been awarded. I believe that the projects that won at national level deserve to be recognised for their efforts because of their high standard.

The awards themselves would not be possible without the hard work of many, especially that of the EEPA National Coordinators. Even in difficult times, the National Coordinators managed to run well attended and perfectly organised national competitions and ensure a continued high standard of projects and competition.

I extend my thanks to every one of you for supporting these projects and making a real difference for SMEs and entrepreneurship across Europe and through that, creating a greater awareness of the role entrepreneurship and entrepreneurs play in society. I would also like to thank the members of the EEPA Jury whose task is never easy in awarding winners from such deserving applicants.

I kindly invite you all to learn more about the projects awarded in 2022 and hope you will be inspired by their pioneering examples of innovation and entrepreneurship.



Outi Slotboom
Director, European Commission



2022 PROMOTING THE ENTREPRENEURIAL SPIRIT

Recognises initiatives at national, regional or local level that promote an entrepreneurial mindset especially among young people and women.



Entrepreneurial Kids, Municipality of Lublin and Maria Curie-Skłodowska University, POLAND

Entrepreneurial Kids is an economic education programme that supports creativity and stimulates entrepreneurial skills among children aged 6-10. The aim of the project is to shape entrepreneurial attitudes and develop among children the skills that will be sought in the labour market which, in turn, contribute to the development of their professional careers. The project is innovative not only in the region but also in Poland.

CONTACT:

Monika Król
mkrol@lublin.eu

Przedsiębiorcze dzieciaki -
Przedsiębiorczy Lublin

We are very honoured that the committee recognised us in this special way. We are pleased that our initiative, which is part of the city's strategy to inspire our youngest residents to be the next generation of entrepreneurs, is recognised at the European level.



The Global Limitless Conference creates a series of events dedicated to female empowerment and women in business. The aim is to close the gender leadership gap and give more women a place at the decision-making table. The conferences which are both in-person and online and feature high-profile speakers have reached over 10,000 viewers from 75 countries and gathered over 100 business decision-makers.

CONTACT:

Lisa Ambrose
lisa@femalefactor.global
www.thefemalefactor.global



the global limitless conference, the female factor AUSTRIA

As the female factor we are working relentlessly on gender equality and closing the gender leadership gap. It's an honour, that our efforts to promote women in business are recognised by the European Commission.



Entrepreneurial Poreč, City of Poreč-Parenzo, CROATIA

Entrepreneurial Poreč is a project for all generations. Activities include taking children to traditional craftsmen to learn from them. Women are especially supported and entitled to a 20% increase in city financial support and novice entrepreneurs can have a free nursery for their child in the first 6 months of business. During October various free activities on the topic of entrepreneurship and are held at different locations in the city.

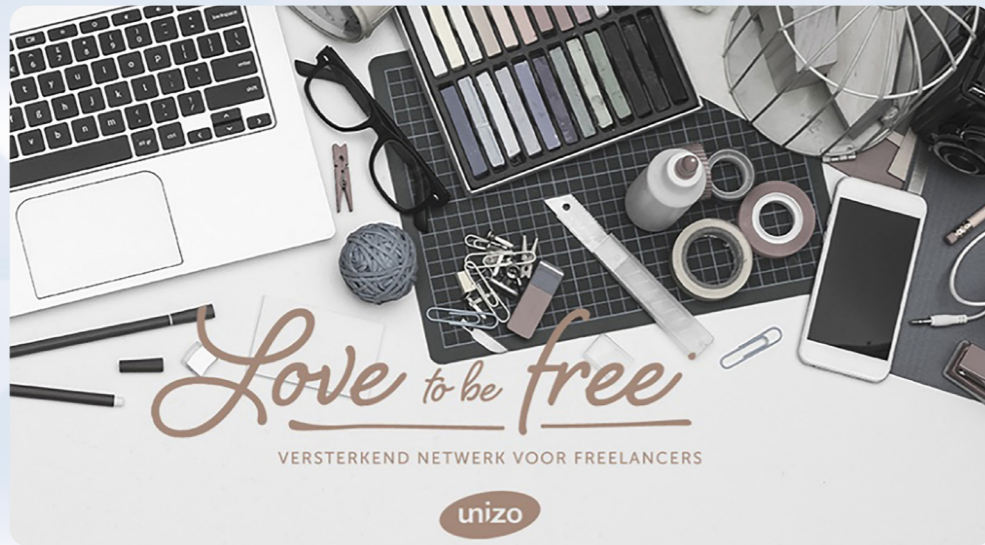
CONTACT:

Morena Mičetić Fabić
morena.micetic-fabic@porec.hr
http://www.porec.hr/

It was a great feeling to be shortlisted for a European Enterprise Promotion Award. It is also a confirmation that we have designed a project which can be applied regardless of borders and limitations. We are happy to present an example of how to promote entrepreneurship to all age groups in an innovative and interesting way throughout the EU.

2022 INVESTING IN ENTREPRENEURIAL SKILLS

Recognises initiatives at national, regional or local level to improve entrepreneurial and managerial skills.



Love to be Free, Unie van Zelfstandige Ondernemers – UNIZO, BELGIUM

Love to be Free connects and represents freelancers in Belgium, offering events and workshops. To give online events live experience participants receive a lunch at home. One event, Freelance Friday has become a live studio show. With the introduction of an online hourly rate calculator, the uncertainty of freelancers about their hourly rate was addressed. The initiative also represents the interests of freelancers to propose an optimal framework to policymakers.

CONTACT:

Gilles Vanderpe
 gilles.vanderpe@unizo.be
<https://www.unizo.be/projecten/unizo-freelance-love-be-free>

We are honoured to win a European Enterprise Promotion Award 2022 with our project 'Love to be free.' Freelancers are the target group of the project and are becoming more and more important in the economy. Studies show that the number of freelancers is increasing fast and are expected to keep growing in the future. Our project aims to strengthen freelancers and their entrepreneurial skills so they can deal with the challenges they have to cope with as sole-entrepreneur.

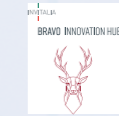


Cyprus Seeds, Cyprus Seeds (CS), CYPRUS

Cyprus Seeds (CS) provides financial, mentoring, and networking opportunities to Cypriot academics to help them commercialise their research and bring to the market, innovative solutions to problems. To achieve its objective, CS offers a program comprising of grants, IP protection, mentoring, entrepreneurship training, networking events and an annual Demo Day. The benefit is the establishment of a pipeline of technology companies in Cyprus and the retention of Cypriot scientists in the country.

CONTACT: **Maria Georgiadou**
 Maria@cyprusseeds.com
<http://www.cyprusseeds.com/>

We are honoured and excited to be shortlisted and to be given the opportunity to showcase our unique program on the European stage.



Bravo Innovation Hub, Invitalia S.p.A., ITALY

Bravo Innovation Hub is a business accelerator assisting companies to develop their business model guided by the best experts in the sector. These companies can connect to the economic chain of the regions concerned and present their idea to an audience of national and international investors. Training activities, mentorship and networking has helped 20 startups from the South of Italy to implement their sustainable business ideas.

CONTACT: **Alfredo Bruni**
 abruni@invitalia.it
<https://www.invitalia.it/cosa-facciamo/creiamo-nuove-aziende/bravo-innovation-hub>

It is an honour for our team and our partners to be recognized among the best projects of EEPA 2022. Being able to bring innovative projects to the marginal areas of the country, to retain talents, to attract investments, pushes us to double our efforts to improve the skills of entrepreneurs and make them ready to win the new challenges of the green and digital transition.

2022 IMPROVING THE BUSINESS ENVIRONMENT & SUPPORTING THE DIGITAL TRANSITION

Recognises innovative policies at national, regional or local level which promote enterprise start-up, growth and digital transition, simplify legislative and administrative procedures for businesses and implement the “Think Small First” principle in favour of small and medium-sized enterprises.



venture challenge

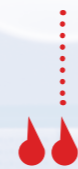
LifeSciences@Work Venture Challenge, Health~Holland; Top Sector Life Sciences & Health, NETHERLANDS

LifeSciences@Work Venture Challenge helps life researchers translate their research into a solid business case that forms the basis for a biotech or medtech start-up. The Venture Challenge works with highly experienced business coaches with hands-on experience in the industry, life sciences start-ups and venture capital. Since 2008, more than 150 teams have participated and most of them have successfully started a biotech or medtech company.

CONTACT:

Simone Hermans
hermans@health-holland.com
<http://www.lifesciencesatwork.nl/>

We're delighted to see that our project is valued by not only the scientists and entrepreneurs that enter our programme, but also recognised by the international EEPA jury.



Support for the City Centre, is implementing a specially developed, strategic concept to attract new users and property owners to the inner city, promoting new uses of shops and buildings. Among other things, concept stores and pop-up store competitions were held to enliven empty retail spaces, increasing diversity in the city centre.

CONTACT: **Thorsten Tendahl**
Thorsten.Tendahl@wfb-bremen.de
<https://www.wfb-bremen.de/de/page/wirtschaftsstandort-bremen/bremen-wird-neu>

WFB Wirtschaftsförderung Bremen GmbH
Wir schaffen Perspektiven

Support for the City Center: Aktionsprogramm Innenstadt & Zukunftsfonds Innenstadt, WFB Wirtschaftsförderung Bremen GmbH, GERMANY

We were very pleased to have made it onto the shortlist of the European Enterprise Promotion Awards, and see it as a valuable award and a confirmation of our work. We are all the more motivated for further projects!



ENFUSE from Dublin City Council fuses local enterprises with postgraduate students, promoting shared learning. The students provide insights, propose solutions and present a tangible plan to businesses. The plan suggests how the business can innovate, address challenges and develop opportunities. Since it began in 2019, 122 enterprises have benefitted from this initiative and 566 students have enhanced their learning and gained industry experience.

CONTACT: **Norman Thompson**
norman.thompson@dublincity.ie
<https://www.dublincity.ie/residential%20>
<https://www.localenterprise.ie/DublinCity>

ENFUSE
Inspiring & Funding - Enterprises & Students

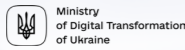
ENFUSE, Dublin City Council, IRELAND

On behalf of all involved, I am delighted that ENFUSE was shortlisted for a European Enterprise Promotion Award and recognised at a European level. Being shortlisted has re-energised our commitment to ENFUSE and made us dream bigger about how the ENFUSE model could expand and benefit enterprises and students throughout Europe.



2022 SUPPORTING THE INTERNATIONALISATION OF BUSINESS

Aims to reward projects that make it easier for enterprises, and particularly small and medium-sized businesses, to break into global markets, both inside the EU and further afield, to benefit from the internationalisation of their business.



Diia. Business, Entrepreneurship and Export Promotion Office (EEPO), UKRAINE

Diia.Business is a large-scale project for the development of entrepreneurship and exports. The project's main objectives are to increase the level of entrepreneurial skills in conducting business both in Ukraine and in foreign markets through educational programs and webinars. Another aspect is the innovative "hotline" to help Ukrainian forced migrants in neighbouring EU countries find a job, open a business, or temporarily move their business.

CONTACT:

Andrii Remizov
 business@thedigital.gov.ua
<https://business.diia.gov.ua/>

Being a winner of a European Enterprise Promotion Awards is not only a great honour for us, but also a sign that we are moving in the right direction of supporting Ukrainian business. Thank you for this recognition.



HEALTH
TECH NORDIC.

HealthTech Nordic 2.0, SWEDEN

HealthTech Nordic is a digital community whose members offer world-class digital healthtech solutions. These solutions change the way of providing and receiving healthcare by using digital platforms. The solutions include care for mental health and chronic conditions, secondary prevention and more. The community consists of companies, of which almost half sell internationally – across 22 countries, reaching more than 2.5 million users and 75.000 paying customers.

CONTACT: **Margareta Wallentén**
 Margareta.wallenten@innovationskane.com
<https://innovationskane.com/start-page/>

It felt amazing to be shortlisted. The whole team has done an incredible job as well as the HealthTech Nordic member companies. Together we change the way the world provides and receives healthcare with digital solutions.



sTARTUp Day, NGO STARTUPDAY, ESTONIA

sTARTUp Day, from NGO STARTUPDAY, is the biggest business festival in the Baltics. It provides an exciting opportunity to learn from world-class performers, to network, participate in quick business meetings, and find new partners, clients, investors or career opportunities. In 2021, sTARTUp Day brought together over 350+ startups, 160+ investors from 54 different countries.

CONTACT: **Mart Lättekivi**
 mart.lattekivi@startupday.ee
<http://www.startupday.ee/>

Being shortlisted for European Enterprise Promotion Award marks a significant milestone for the whole team for the years of work that has been put in for the success of the event. It does us great honour to be recognised with such an award.

2022 SUPPORTING THE SUSTAINABLE TRANSITION

Recognises initiatives that promote a circular economy approach or that have specific environmental features such as encouraging the use of recycled materials or renewable energy.



Energy Cooperative WEnCoop, Halkidiki Chamber, Greek Association of Women Entrepreneurs - SEGE, GREECE

Energy Cooperative WEnCoop, is the first energy community for women entrepreneurs in Greece. Their purpose is to develop female entrepreneurship whilst addressing energy poverty, promoting sustainability, and investigating how to produce and supply energy efficiently at a local and regional level.

The cooperative operates a photovoltaic park, the energy produced is to be used in electromobility actions and free quantities are allocated to vulnerable population groups.

CONTACT:

Ioannis Koufidis
simvoulos@epihal.gr
<https://wencoop.gr/>



Being involved from the start of this project to EEPA, I was admiring all these inspirational projects. It is beyond my imagination that this year our project might now inspire others. So excited!



The WaterCampus Innovation Ecosystem is dedicated to creating an environmental, social and economic impact and solve the water crisis by offering a unique research infrastructure. It encourages cooperation between national businesses, knowledge institutes and governments within the water technology sector. Since its inception, a number of active organizations such as Centre of Expertise Water Technology and the Water Alliance have been created from the ecosystem.

CONTACT: **Ronald Wielinga**
r.wielinga@watercampus.nl
<http://www.watercampus.nl/>



The WaterCampus Innovation Ecosystem, WaterCampus Leeuwarden, NETHERLANDS



We work with passionate researchers, entrepreneurs, and civil servants to create real impact in the world. Most colleagues involved are quite humble about their work. "I am just doing my job" is a sentence we hear every day. Therefore, it is fantastic for the whole team that we were shortlisted for the prestigious EEPA-award, and we feel really honoured.



ScaleUp4Sustainability (S4S), Carl von Ossietzky University of Oldenburg and partners, GERMANY

ScaleUp4Sustainability (S4S), from the Carl von Ossietzky University of Oldenburg, develops and tests cooperation programmes between students and companies for the development of sustainable green products and business models. ScaleUp4Sustainability allows students and companies to jointly develop innovative ideas for sustainable business models.

The collaborating partners are:

- Carl von Ossietzky University (Germany, Coordinator)
- Linköping University (Sweden)
- Vennebroek Academic Services (The Netherlands)
- EWE Aktiengesellschaft (Germany)
- CEWE Stiftung & Co. KGaA (Germany)
- BÜFA GmbH & Co. KG (Germany)
- Tekniska Verken I Linköping AB (Sweden)
- Againty AB (Sweden)
- Noble Environmental Technologies Europe BV (The Netherlands)
- Borderstep Institute for Innovation and Sustainability (Germany)

CONTACT: **Klaus Fichter**
klaus.fichter@uni-oldenburg.de
<https://www.scaleup4sustainability.eu>



It is fantastic that our project ScaleUp4Sustainability was shortlisted for a European Enterprise Promotion Award. This helps us to raise awareness and scale our innovative approaches in collaborative green venturing between students and companies.



2022 RESPONSIBLE AND INCLUSIVE ENTREPRENEURSHIP

Recognises national, regional or local initiatives by authorities or public/private partnerships which promote corporate social responsibility among small and medium-sized enterprises, including efforts to promote entrepreneurship among disadvantaged groups.



La French Tech Tremplin, La French Tech, FRANCE

French Tech Tremplin is a programme that promotes social diversity by supporting aspiring entrepreneurs from tougher backgrounds with funding, training and mentorship. The project provides a gateway to these entrepreneurs otherwise being far from entrepreneurship, to create their start-up anywhere in France. This brings social diversity to the French start-up scene.

CONTACT:

Marine Fontugne
marine.fontugne@finances.gouv.fr
<https://lafrenchtech.com/en/>

Winning this award is a reward for the work done by our entire team and by our institutional and private partners throughout France, and above all a reward for all the entrepreneurs we have been able to support for the past 3 years.



co:worx project, Edgeworthstown Enterprise Hub clg, IRELAND

co:worx is a social innovators project which fosters economic growth and digital change in the community. With the repurposing and transformation of a derelict bank building co:worx, a digital hub, was created. It provides space for companies to start up, expand or offer remote work opportunities. The objectives are the promotion of local enterprise and entrepreneurship and the support of the community to access further education and digital skills providers.

CONTACT: **Clare McEnroe**
clare@coworx.ie
<https://coworx.ie>

We are absolutely delighted with this recognition for the co:worx project. The co:worx project, led by local volunteers, demonstrates what can be achieved by a community entrepreneurial approach to economic growth and digital change in the community.



INNOVATIA 8.3, Instituto de las Mujeres y Universidad de Santiago de Compostela, SPAIN

The University of Santiago de Compostela and the Women's Institute have worked together on Innovatia 8.3, to promote the entrepreneurial spirit of women in the scientific-technological field and to strengthen the gender perspective in knowledge transfer processes. It also supports women in the process of creating technology-based companies. The project benefits women in science and universities, who are subsequently often becoming role models in their field.

CONTACT: **Begoña Suárez Suárez**
bsuarezs@inmujeres.es
<https://innovatia83.es/>

This is a recognition to the effort and innovation of entrepreneurial projects that push for technologies, knowledge and gender equality at the base of the business; always keeping people at the centre. Focusing on the well-being of people is a common characteristic in many companies created by women. This shows the importance of considering gender perspective and feminist principles that seek real equality between men and women.



2022 GRAND JURY PRIZE

A special prize awarded to the entrepreneurial initiative considered the most creative and inspiring in Europe.



**Love to be Free,
Unie van Zelfstandige Ondernemers –
UNIZO, BELGIUM**

The Love to be Free initiative from UNIZO connects and represents freelancers in Belgium, offering various online and offline events helping freelancers grow as entrepreneurs.

The concept includes a number of actions around advice, support and guidance of freelance entrepreneurs: Freelance Friday, Day of the freelancer, FreeBiz. With the Freelance Focus Report and research into flexible work in Flanders, the needs and concerns of freelancers have been mapped out and their support was designed. Also, with the introduction of an online hourly rate calculator, the uncertainty of freelancers about their hourly rate was met. By representing the interests of this growing group of solo entrepreneurs, an optimal framework for the future of work can be proposed to policymakers.

CONTACT:

Gilles Vandorpe
gilles.vandorpe@unizo.be
[https://www.unizo.be/
projecten/unizo-freelance-
love-be-free](https://www.unizo.be/projecten/unizo-freelance-love-be-free)

The EEPA Jury felt that in 2022 a special mention should also be awarded to the following projects, which have demonstrated best practices in the promotion of enterprise.



empezar.tv

**Empezar TV, Andalucía
Emprende, Fundación
Pública Andaluza, SPAIN**

Empezar.tv is the first 100% digital channel on entrepreneurship made for and by entrepreneurs. The channel offers useful content, interesting speakers and innovative formats: mostly videos, which are shared on social media. The vision is to be the reference point for Spanish-speaking entrepreneurship videos – a free resource that supports a culture of entrepreneurship in Spanish-speaking countries.

CONTACT: Cristina Gelado Rubio
cgelado@andaluciaemprende.es
<https://empezar.tv/>



SMV:Digital

**SME: Digital,
DENMARK**

SME:Digital is a Danish program that helps SMEs to digitalise by offering online guidance, individual advice, investment support, and skills and leadership development. More than 2,800 companies have received help through the program and two out of three companies have made further investments into digitalisation one year after their SME:digital project.

CONTACT: Ida Schaar
idasch@erst.dk
<http://www.erst.dk/>

Promoting the Entrepreneurial Spirit

COUNTRY	PROJECT NAME	ORGANISATION NAME	PROJECT WEBSITE
AUSTRIA	the global limitless conference by the female factor	the female factor	www.femalefactor.global
BELGIUM	Always on the move. Your guide to entrepreneurial success.	Flanders Innovation and Entrepreneurship	https://startersgids.vlaio.be/
CROATIA	Entrepreneurial Poreč	City of Poreč-Parenzo	www.porec.hr
CYPRUS	Supporting innovation and entrepreneurship in Nicosia	Nicosia Municipality	http://www.cyens.org.cy/ https://www.nicosia.org.cy/el-GR/municipality/multifunctional-foundation/
ESTONIA	Solaride	Solarcar Estonia MTÜ	https://solaride.ee/
GREECE	Startup Universe	National Documentation Centre - Εθνικό Κέντρο Τεκμηρίωσης και Ηλεκτρονικού Περιεχομένου (ΕΚΤ)	https://thestartupuniverse.org/
HUNGARY	Maintaining student organizations to enhance the skillset, entrepreneurial attitude and excellence of university students.	Youth Business Group (Youth Business Group Egyesület)	https://ybg.hu/
LITHUANIA	„accelerator_x” – praktinio verslumo ugdymo plėtra Lietuvoje	Lietuvos Junior Achievement	https://lja.lt/
MALTA	StartinMalta	Malta Enterprise (ME)	https://startinmalta.com/
POLAND	Entrepreneurial Kids	Municipality of Lublin & Maria Curie-Skłodowska University	biznes@lublin.eu
SERBIA	“Ja, Preduzetnik” (I, Entrepreneur)	“Ja, Preduzetnik” – Companies Connected Consulting	www.japreduzetnik.rs
SLOVENIA	PONI Gorenjska – POdjetno Nad Izzive	BSC Kranj, Regional development agency of Gorenjska KOVAČNICA – Business Incubator Kranj	https://kovacnica.si/poni/
SPAIN	empezar.tv	Andalucía Emprende, Fundación Pública Andaluza	https://empezar.tv/
TURKEY	CYBERPARK BIGG MARKA	Bilkent CYBERPARK	https://www.cyberpark.com.tr/

Investing in Entrepreneurial Skills

COUNTRY	PROJECT NAME	ORGANISATION NAME	PROJECT WEBSITE
BELGIUM	Love to be Free	Unie van Zelfstandige Ondernemers – UNIZO. (Organisation for SME's and Self-Employed in Flanders Belgium)	Unizo.be/freelance
CYPRUS	Cyprus Seeds	CS Cyprus Seeds	http://www.cyprusseeds.com/
HUNGARY	vallalkozzokosan.eu - online education platform	Junior Achievement Hungary	www.ejam.hu
ITALY	Bravo Innovation Hub	Invitalia S.p.A.	https://www.invitalia.it/cosa-facciamo/creiamo-nuove-aziende/bravo-innovation-hub
SLOVAKIA	Inovácia Learn & Lead	Learn & Lead Innovation, s. r. o.	https://www.learnandlead.eu/
SLOVENIA	Mosaic of Entrepreneurship: a series of seminars and online lessons and content	Katapult d.o.o., business accelerator	https://katapult.si
TURKEY	Atolye Uskudar Programme	Uskudar Municipality	www.uskudar.bel.tr

Improving the Business Environment & Supporting the Digital Transition

COUNTRY	PROJECT NAME	ORGANISATION NAME	PROJECT WEBSITE
AUSTRIA	Sharpen! Performance – an initiative to foster digitalisation and internationalisation in Styrian companies	Styrian Business Promotion Agency (SFG)	www.sfg.at
DENMARK	SME:Digital	Danish Business Authority	www.erst.dk
GERMANY	Support for the city center by WFB Wirtschaftsförderung Bremen GmbH (WFB) as part of „Aktionsprogramm Innenstadt“ & „Zukunftsfonds Innenstadt“	WFB Wirtschaftsförderung Bremen GmbH	https://www.wfb-bremen.de/de/page/wirtschaftsstandort-bremen/bremen-wird-neu
IRELAND	Enfuse	Dublin City Council	https://www.dublincity.ie/residential https://www.localenterprise.ie/DublinCity
LITHUANIA	Sutelktinės paskolos "Avietė"	UAB „Investicijų ir verslo garantijos“, „Investicijų ir verslo garantijos“, Ltd (INVEGA)	www.invega.lt
MONTENEGRO	Cooperation for Development of Cross Border Business Environment Enhanced	Innovation and Entrepreneurship Center Tehnopolis	www.tehnopolis.me
NETHERLANDS	LifeSciences@Work Venture Challenge	Health-Holland; Topsector LSH	www.lifesciencesatwork.nl
PORTUGAL	Espaço Empresa	IAPMEI – Portuguese Agency for Competitiveness and Innovation	https://eportugal.gov.pt/inicio/espaco-empresa
SERBIA	StarTech: Innovation aiming for stars	NALED (National Alliance for Local Economic Development)	https://www.naled.rs/en/

Supporting the Internationalisation of Business

COUNTRY	PROJECT NAME	ORGANISATION NAME	PROJECT WEBSITE
ESTONIA	sSTARTup Day	NGO STARTUPDAY	www.startupday.ee
SWEDEN	HealthTech Nordic 2.0	Innovation Skåne	https://innovationskane.com/start-page/
UKRAINE	Ukrainian national project Diia.Business	State Institution "Entrepreneurship and Export Promotion Office" (EEPO)	https://business.diaa.gov.ua/

Supporting the sustainable transition

COUNTRY	PROJECT NAME	ORGANISATION NAME	PROJECT WEBSITE
DENMARK	Den grønne investeringspulje / Aarhus' Green Investment Fund	City of Aarhus	https://www.aarhus.dk/
GERMANY	ScaleUp4Sustainability (S4S)	Carl von Ossietzky University of Oldenburg	https://www.scaleup4sustainability.eu/ https://uol.de/en/innovation/research/scaleup4sustainability
GREECE	Energy Cooperative WEnCoop	Halkidiki Chamber, Greek Association of Women Entrepreneurs – SEGE	https://www.sege.gr/, https://epihal.gr/, https://wencoop.gr/
ITALY	EU ECO-TANDEM PROGRAMME	X23 Srl	www.x-23.org
MALTA	A fair Green Deal for Maltese Businesses	Malta Chamber of SMEs	http://www.smechamber.mt/
NETHERLANDS	The WaterCampus Innovation Ecosystem	WaterCampus Leeuwarden	www.watercampus.nl
PORTUGAL	Cartilha da Sustentabilidade dos Açores	Açores DMO	CARTILHA - Açores - No rumo da sustentabilidade (azores.gov.pt)
SLOVAKIA	Zelené strechy pre odolnejšie Slovensko	Asociácia pre zelené strechy a zelenú infraštruktúru	www.zelenestrechy.org
SWEDEN	The Total Concept	CIT Energy Management	www.energy-management.se

Responsible and Inclusive Entrepreneurship

COUNTRY	PROJECT NAME	ORGANISATION NAME	PROJECT WEBSITE
BULGARIA	Academy for local entrepreneurs	"Rinker Center for Entrepreneurship and Training" part of the BCause Foundation	https://www.rinkercenter.org/en/
FRANCE	French Tech Tremplin	French Tech	https://lafrenchtech.com/en/
IRELAND	co:worx project	Edgeworthstown Enterprise Hub clg	www.coworx.ie
POLAND	Business Mentoring Sessions	Maria Curie-Skłodowska University in Lublin	https://www.umcs.pl/pl/business-mentoring-sessions,23773,1.htm
SPAIN	INNOVATIA 8.3	INSTITUTO DE LAS MUJERES Y UNIVERSIDADE DE SANTIAGO DE COMPOSTELA	https://innovatia83.es/

Each year, an independent high-level European Jury takes on the difficult task of selecting the best entries in each category. The jury for 2022 included representatives from government, business and academia. There were also two permanent representatives, one from DG Internal Market, Industry, Entrepreneurship and SMEs and one from the Committee of the Regions. The winner of the previous year's Grand Jury Prize is also invited to sit on the Jury. The 2022 Jury was composed of:

Outi Slotboom,
Director of Strategy and Economic Analysis, Directorate-General for Internal Market, Industry, Entrepreneurship and SMEs, European Commission

Outi is Director for Strategy and Economic Analysis at the Directorate General for Internal Market, Industry, Entrepreneurship and SMEs of the European Commission. Her Directorate is in charge of the strategy for EU industrial policy and the Single Market, small and medium-sized enterprises and entrepreneurship, the international aspects of industrial policy, as well as economic analysis underpinning these policies.

The three qualities that I will be looking for are: (1) the impact of the initiative; (2) its innovative elements (what is new/done differently as opposed to similar initiatives); and (3) its ability to be replicated in other countries/settings.
– **Outi Slotboom**



Marian Piecha,
Deputy Minister of the EU Funds Section Ministry of Industry and Trade of the Czech Republic and the SME Envoy for Czech Republic

Before being appointed Deputy Minister of the EU Funds and Digital Economy Section on February 1, 2018, Marian was in turn Director of the Department of Business and Investment at the Czech Ministry of Industry and Trade, the CEO of the business and investment support agency CzechInvest, and Director of the Ministry of Industry and Trade's SME Support Department.

I appreciated the projects that were original, brought unique solutions and were transferable worldwide, not only within the EU. – **Marian Piecha**



Prof. Thomas M. Cooney,
Professor of Entrepreneurship, Technological University Dublin

Thomas is a Professor of Entrepreneurship at Technological University Dublin, and Academic Director of the TU Dublin Institute for Minority Entrepreneurship. He is also a director of four businesses, works in a supportive capacity with a variety of organisations and has published widely on the topic of entrepreneurship. Thomas has been an EEPA jury member for several years now, so we asked him for his advice for participants and what the jury will be looking for in 2022.

What is wonderful about EEPA is that it recognises unsung heroes and celebrates the amazing work being done by people to encourage greater levels of entrepreneurial activity at local and regional levels. – **Thomas Cooney**



Christel Delberghe,
Director General of EuroCommerce

Christel has been Director General of EuroCommerce since November 2021, where she acts as the chief advocate for the retail and wholesale sector with the EU institutions, stakeholders and the media. Previously, she was EuroCommerce's Executive Director for Competitiveness and Communications, leading action on commercial relations and competition issues, as well as the interests of wholesalers and SMEs.

For us jury members, it is important to see the impact the project has on the local economy, its innovative dimension and how it could be transferred and possibly implemented in other regions in Europe. – **Christel Delberghe**



The 2022 Jury continued:

Caroline Mischler,
Director of the European and International Department of the Directorate General for Enterprise, at the French Ministry of Economy and Finance and SME Envoy for France

Caroline is an economist who worked at the French national regulatory authority responsible for the electronic communications and postal sectors. After joining the Directorate General for Enterprise in 2005, she held several positions involving the design of public policies to support competitiveness, innovation and industry, before being appointed to her current post in 2019. Caroline is the French SME Envoy within the SME Envoys Network and the High-Level Working Group on Competitiveness and Growth.

A winning project must be socially and/or environmentally impactful, innovative, and duplicable in other ecosystems. – Caroline Mischler



Thomas Wobben,
Director, Committee of the Regions

After studying economics and politics, Thomas worked in the voluntary sector, before joining the European policy services of the German state of Saxony-Anhalt in 1993. In 1995, he moved to the Saxony-Anhalt Liaison Office in Brussels, taking over as Director in 2000. Thomas has been with the Committee of the Regions since March 2012, firstly as Director for Horizontal Policies and Networks, then as Director for Legislative Work. Thomas Wobben is representing the Committee of the Regions.

EEPA is a great opportunity for initiatives at local, regional or national level to show their concepts and achievements in promoting entrepreneurship, for example by helping SMEs to enter new markets or fostering the entrepreneurial spirit in education and training. Coming from the Committee of the Regions, it is also very positive to see that many of the EEPA entries and winners focus their work on the local and regional level. – Thomas Wobben



Selma Yilmaz-Schwenker,
Grand Jury Prize Winner 2021 with COMPETENZentrum für Selbständige (CfS)

Her recent experience as a participant in the competition means her advice for this year's cohort is particularly valuable.

By shining a light on local initiatives, it shows the great European potential of entrepreneurship and its role in nurturing and shaping our society. – Selma Yilmaz-Schwenker



Understanding the judging process

Individual countries were invited to conduct national competitions to determine the best projects to represent their nation. Hundreds of projects competed in these national competitions in 2022 for a chance to enter the European Enterprise Promotion Awards. Countries were allowed to nominate a maximum of two entries (in different categories) for the European competition. Each Jury member reads and assesses every entry against defined criteria covering: originality and feasibility, impact on the economy, improvement of stakeholder relations and transferability. The Jury then meets to discuss their top entries in each category, before agreeing on winners, runners up and any special mentions. The shortlist is published shortly after the jury meeting and the winners are announced during the Awards Ceremony at the SME Assembly.

What does it mean to become an EEPA Winner?



EEPA 2021 Winner,
Promoting the Entrepreneurial Spirit
Culinary Action!, Basque Culinary Center, SPAIN

Winning the award has put into perspective not only the work that we have done at Culinary Action! for the last few years (before food tech became the trending topic concept that is today) but it is also an important validation at a paramount time for startups on food and gastronomy innovation. Food is after all, along with energy generation and mobility one of the three main drivers of climate change and as such it requires to reinforce and take "to the next level" those tools that help the entrepreneurs in the field, such as Culinary Action!



EEPA 2020 Winner,
Investing in Entrepreneurial Skills
Open Entrepreneurship, DENMARK

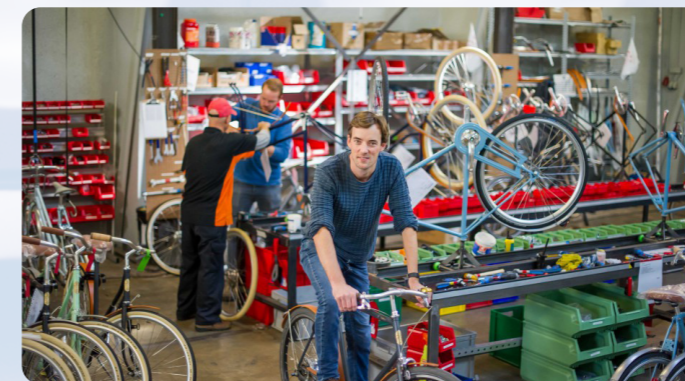
Open Entrepreneurship winning the award has already gained political attention in Denmark, and we are confident that this alone will support our collaboration across universities and our long-term financial anchoring of the project. Being recognised by EEPA and the European Commission has also strengthened our presence in the Danish innovation ecosystem.

It is of great importance to us, that a project that celebrates the collaboration between seven Danish universities, wins a European level award.



EEPA 2021 Winner,
Responsible and Inclusive Entrepreneurship
INKLUDERA, SWEDEN

The award is a great testament to the work we have been dedicated to during the past decade and of course a motivation going forward. We plan to spread our accumulated knowledge and experience of scaling social entrepreneurship to further strengthen the field in Sweden. Others should enter EEPA as we believe it's a great forum for being inspired by other organisations. It's important to be true to your cause and focused on impact – in your everyday work and in your application.



EEPA 2020 Winner,
Responsible and Inclusive Entrepreneurship
Social Enterprise, NETHERLANDS

After winning the award, we received many compliments from an astonishing number of people and organisations all over the world! It led to so much engagement online. This is giving a great boost to the social enterprise movement in the Netherlands and to everyone involved with Social Enterprise NL. The prize represents recognition for all the work we have done, and we will keep on doing the best we can to support social entrepreneurs.

Past Grand Jury Prize Winners

The European Enterprise Promotion Awards were launched in 2006. Since that time, there have been many category winners including one Grand Jury Prize Winner in each annual competition. Past Grand Jury Prize winners include:

2021 COMPETENZentrum für Selbständige, GERMANY



COMPETENZentrum für Selbständige, which is supported by the non-profit association Initiative Selbständiger Immigrantinnen (ISI), supports migrant women with training and professional development, providing them with the skills they need to become self-employed. By providing free training, coaching and networking opportunities, both migrant women who are willing to start a business and those who are already self-employed, are enabled to put business ideas into practice and to sustainably build up their own business start-ups in Berlin. The project is guided by the principle that migrant women stand up for migrant women.

Winning the awards had great resonance among our participants and partner organizations. We have received many congratulations and encouraging messages. Some magazines have reported about us.

But most important is that we make the most of the awards and their prestige in order to further promote the offers of the "COMPETENZentrum für Selbständige" and reach even more migrant women, to foster them on their way to self-employment.

CONTACT:
www.isi-ev.de

2020 Le Portail du Rebond Des Entrepreneurs, FRANCE



The Recovery Portal offers a complete value chain to support entrepreneurs facing difficulties. It is made up of 6 associations that together provide a nationwide service to entrepreneurs to help them through difficult times. The associations have unique specialisations across different areas, allowing them to cover the entire value chain, from entrepreneurial failure and its prevention to entrepreneurial recovery and its promotion. The portal provides a single online point of access so that entrepreneurs can choose the associations that corresponds to their entrepreneurial recovery needs. The associations are able to offer advice and help remove obstacles that hinder entrepreneurial recovery.

The ENTREPRENEURIAL RECOVERY PORTAL was proud that its innovative grouping of 6 associations, each carrying out complementary actions, was recognized as an effective system that is unique in Europe, both in the diversity of its scope and in its coherence as a whole.

CONTACT:
http://www.portaildurebond.eu/

2019 Green PAC iLab, NETHERLANDS



At GreenPAC iLab, new entrepreneurs in the plastics industry are supported to help them start their businesses and achieve sustainable and circular business models. The project functions as a community where entrepreneurs with innovative ideas for a plastic product or service are coached and given access to a network of professionals that help with feasibility studies, research and product development. Through collaboration with plastics professionals and research groups, the GreenPAC iLab is fostering a new generation of plastics entrepreneurs guided by circular and sustainable values. To date, 40 start-ups have received assistance and 52 jobs have been created.

CONTACT:
http://www.greenpacilab.nl/

2018 Lean Landing, Denmark, DENMARK



Lean Landing developed and implemented an innovative and lasting soft-landing network between micro SMEs, business incubators and business development organisations in six North Sea countries. The soft-landing network enables SMEs to break into international markets via direct discussions with potential customers and partners in the target country. The project focuses on micro SMEs and early internationalisation, as opposed to the traditional focus on medium sized SMEs. Traditionally, SMEs rely on detailed and lengthy market studies before attempting to enter, however through Lean Landing they can directly learn the local experience and increase their knowledge of incubators in several countries.

CONTACT:
www.vhsj.dk

The European Commission DG Internal Market, Industry, Entrepreneurship and SMEs (DG GROW)

Within the European Commission, the Directorate-General for Internal Market, Industry, Entrepreneurship and SMEs, 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, maintaining and reinforcing a strong and high-performing industrial base, by stimulating investment in new technologies and easing access to markets and to finance. 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 Internal Market, Industry, Entrepreneurship and SMEs works with the business community and Member States to help develop innovative, competitive and responsible SME policies for Europe.

https://ec.europa.eu/growth/index_en

Your Europe Business Portal

Want to find out what the EU does to boost small businesses in Europe and on the global market, and what it can do for your business? Your Europe Business is a multilingual single gateway to practical information on how to do business in the Single Market. It offers help to businesses and entrepreneurs who want to expand their activities to other EU or EEA countries. It provides practical information and links to national rules, authorities, helpdesks, and support services.

https://europa.eu/youreurope/business/index_en.htm

European Enterprise Promotion Awards

For further information:
European Enterprise Awards Secretariat
E-mail: eepe@LOWeurope.eu

 [Twitter.com/@eepe_eu](https://twitter.com/@eepe_eu)

 Facebook.com/PromotingEnterprise

 YouTube.com/PromotingEnterprise

European Enterprise Promotion Awards (europa.eu)

