European Commission
RegioStars 2017
10th Anniversary
Application Deadline April 10th
The European Awards for innovative projects
Award Ceremony
10 October 2017
Regional and Urban Policy
SQUARE
BRUSSELS MEETING CENTRE

European Commission

RegioStars 2017

10th Anniversary

The European Awards for innovative projects

1. **Smart Specialisation for SME innovation**

2. **Energy Union: Climate action**

3. **Women Empowerment** and **Active Participation**

4. **Education and Training**

5. **CityStars: Cities in Digital Transition**

Complete information:
bit.ly/Regiostars2017

Regional and Urban Policy

Apply here before 10th April 2017:
www.regiostarsawards.eu

European Commission

RegioStars 2017

1. Smart Specialisation for SME innovation

SMEs are key to smart specialisation strategies

Examples of eligible projects under this category:

- ✓ **One-stop-shop systems** for SME support
- ✓ **Simplification measures** for SMEs
- ✓ Initiatives under the '**Seal of Excellence**'
- ✓ **Financial instruments** or new forms of SME innovation funding like crowdsourcing
- ✓ **Growth accelerators** such as advisory and matching platforms
- ✓ **Digital innovation hubs**

Regional and Urban Policy

European Commission

RegioStars 2017

2. Energy Union: Climate action

Under this category, projects should have a clear contribution to the long-term transition towards a low-carbon economy, such as:

- ✓ projects in **renewable energy and energy efficiency**
- ✓ development and prototyping of **innovative renewable energy technologies**
- ✓ investments in **cutting greenhouse gas emissions**
- ✓ **anticipation and adaption** to the **adverse effects of climate change**
- ✓ **strategies and action plans to adapt to climate change**
- ✓ **disaster management systems** facilitating disaster resilience, risk prevention and management of climate-related risks

European Commission

RegioStars 2017

3. Women Empowerment and Active Participation

Projects under this category should promote gender equality, such as:

- ✓ Supporting women in **business and employment** through better access to finance, access to childcare/healthcare, trainings or fostering women in science and technology professions
- ✓ Enabling women from marginalised groups to engage in **education**
- ✓ Supporting the **participation of women in local authorities** - training for strategic groups, community-led local development
- ✓ Making **urban environment safer and more accessible** for women
- ✓ **Prevention of violence against women**, including social housing and shelter for women experiencing violence and single parents
- ✓ Innovative ways for **gender budgeting**

Regional and Urban Policy

European Commission

RegioStars 2017

4 Education and training

Projects under this category should serve employability and prosperity, such as:

- ✓ **Early Childhood Education** and School Readiness
- ✓ **Equitable Access** to good quality education for all
- ✓ **Innovations** in education, including those facilitated by novel infrastructure
- ✓ Innovative **collaboration** between education institutions and businesses
- ✓ Enhanced access to **lifelong learning**, including **Digital Skills**
- ✓ Strengthened **vocational education** and training systems
- ✓ Measures improving **skills intelligence** and addressing **skills shortages** in specific economic sectors
- ✓ Effective ways to address **brain-drain** and **strengthen innovation** and **entrepreneurship skills**

European Commission

RegioStars 2017

5 CityStars: Cities in Digital Transition

Under this category we look for frontrunners and catalysts of change that:

- ✓ Enhance the **open access to data** and its **usability** for citizens and businesses
- ✓ Use new technologies to provide **digital public services** to citizens and businesses
- ✓ Develop a **digital/smart city strategy** and **collaborative governance** structures
- ✓ Enhance **local access** to digital technologies and infrastructures
- ✓ Advance the **sustainability** of urban infrastructure through digitalisation
- ✓ Increase **transparency of decision-making** and **civil engagement**
- ✓ Ensure **cybersecurity** for cities