

How your projects can become stars



*Ludmila MAJLATHOVA, Hanna SODERSTROM
and Michaela DOLEZALOVA*

20/02/2025

Content

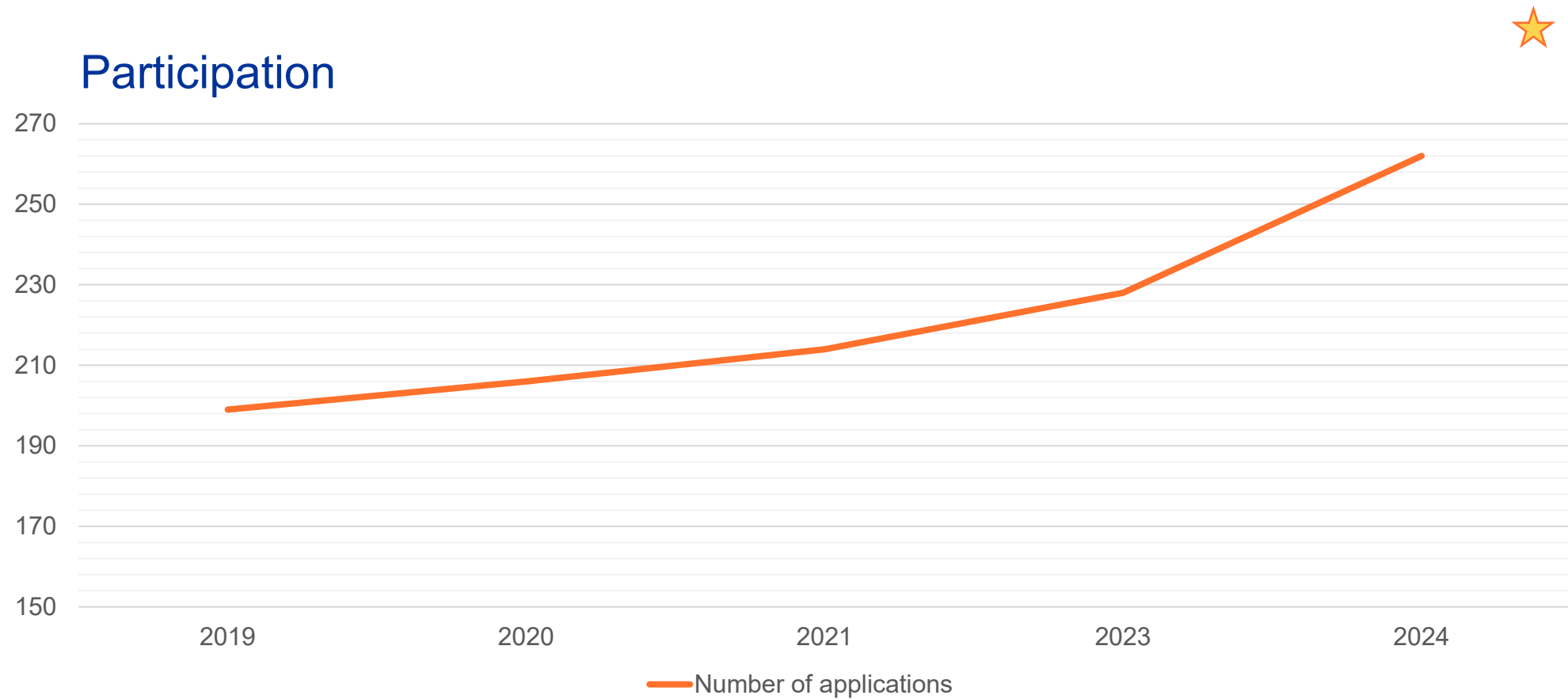
1. A look back
2. Competition structure
3. Competition categories
4. Eligibility criteria
5. Award criteria
6. Application form
7. Timeline
8. Final notes
9. Your questions





A look back

A look back



Winners

**GDYNIA
OPNOWA
REVITALISATION**



**BITS: Bicycles
and Intelligent
Transport
Systems**



BYTHOS

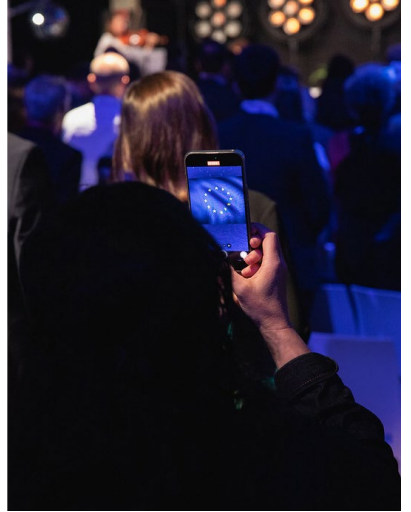
Also the public
choice award!

BIOGREENFINERY



Special guests

**Health Development
Program: Telemedicine
for the Most Deprived
Settlements**



Traditions



*I absolutely would recommend!
It was a truly positive and good
experience*

*Gives the project and
programme a lot of good
visibility, recognition,
credibility, reputation*



*I would certainly recommend applying
for Regiostars competition. It is a great
opportunity to showcase your project on
a big european platform. If you become
a finalist or a winner - it is a big honour
and recognition and really effective
promotion of your project.*



networking - people, inspirations



Competition structure

Structure of the competition

- Competition categories (5) aligned to Policy objectives (2021-2027)
- Focus on completed projects
- 2 phases in the selection process
 - **First stage:** an assessment of all submitted project applications on paper and a selection of up-to 5 finalists per category by an independent jury.
 - **Second stage:** a ‘live’ presentation of the finalists in front of the jury, followed by interviews; the winners will be decided at a jury meeting.
- Guide for applicants in all EU languages





Competition categories

A Competitive and Smart Europe

Promoting competitiveness, innovation and economic resilience

- **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 & support green and digital transformation,
 - enhance digitalisation processes and show innovative approaches to implementing Research and Innovation Strategies,
 - foster smart cities and villages agenda
 - prepare SMEs for competing in a globalised economy (e.g. new technologies & products, new business models, creative industries, social entrepreneurship)
 - contribute to sustainable regional innovation systems and furthering the job market in the digital industries.
- *Conversion table: TO 1; TO 2; TO 3.*



In 2024...

- **Bythos** (IT/MT): utilised side streams from the fish processing industry to create ingredients for human and animal wellbeing (new value chain)
- **Matlust Food Hub** (SE): aimed to create a regional knowledge hub and incubator for sustainable food, to enhance innovation, develop new products.
- **SustES** (CZ): explored solutions to address adaptation strategies in agriculture sector. To maintain production while emissions.
- **Care and Mobility Innovation** (DE): developed strategies in digital health and intelligent mobility and supported cross-sector innovations.
- **Device for Early Diagnosis of Skin Cancer** (LV): created a device for early detection of skin melanoma.



A Green Europe

The green transition as the enabler of regional development

- **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
 - help achieve the EU's Green Deal goals of climate neutrality,
 - support the REPowerEU Plan (energy savings, producing clean energy and supporting RES)
 - improve 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*



In 2024...

- **Biogreenfinery** (ES): producing alternative fuels (green H2 and other synthetic fuels). It reduces dependence on oil and promotes significant environmental, social and economic benefits for the region.
- **Jomopans** (NL/BE/DE/DK/NO/UK): combined measurements at sea with numerical modelling to make the first soundscape of the North Sea.
- **Ecogres 4.0** (PT): developed sustainable ceramic pastes using a circular economy philosophy, producing new, more sustainable lines.
- **Swipe for a Greener Future** (BG): revitalization of second-hand smartphones and electronics, reducing e-waste and promoting sustainable consumption.
- **Topsoil** (DK/NL/BE/DE/UK): using new geophysical methods to assess underground structures and find solutions for the future of soil and groundwater management.



A Connected Europe

Enhancing mobility and connectivity between regions

- **Category 3** focusses on projects in support of Policy Objective 3, to enhance mobility and connectivity.
- Including, but not limited to, good projects that
 - Promote the delivery of a more connected Europe
 - Support efficient, safe and environmentally friendly mobility solutions within the EU,
 - help achieve the goals of the Trans European Networks in the field of transport, energy 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 (but also TO2)*



In 2024...

- **BITS (NL/BE/DK/DE/UK)**: demonstrated the variety of possibilities created by smart cycling applications. It embodies the twin – green and digital transition
- **SMART E67 (ES/LT)**: aimed at increasing efficiency and safety of passenger and cargo mobility in the Central Baltic region by introducing Intelligent Transport System.
- **New bioclimatic airport terminal (FR)**: bioclimatic, naturally ventilated terminal embodied an innovative and unprecedented approach to energy transition.
- **Transborder (RO/HU)**: introducing a direct cross-border public transport line and new low-emission buses transport in Oradea and Debrecen, enhancing sustainable mobility and cutting CO2 emissions.
- **WiNet@Uni (RO/MO)**: upgraded the communication infrastructures of Iasi and Moldova Technical Universities.



A Social and Inclusive Europe

Achieving a more inclusive Europe by harnessing regional talents

- **Category 4** focusses on projects in support of Policy Objective 4, to achieve a more social and inclusive Europe.
- 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,
 - foresee activities on the labour market, in the education sector, in local communities and international networks,
 - 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*



In 2024...

- **Health development program (HU):** setting up of telemedicine in emerging settlements. Mobile clinics provide modern medical care in the proximity of patients' homes.
- **Chess for Change (RO/HU):** became a lifeline for 100 disadvantaged children, teaching them skills, resilience, and self-esteem.
- **Moai labs (ES/FR):** co-developing technological solutions for the elderly to combat unwanted loneliness, and assessed their impact on policies.
- **O Krok (CZ):** helping people with disabilities to find employment in the open labour market.
- **Realiza.te (PT):** showcases collaborative efforts to combat Early School Leaving and enhance educational success.



A Europe Closer to Citizens

Fostering the sustainable development of all types of territories

- **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 (but also TO6)*



In 2024...

- **Gdynia OdNowa (PL)**: the revitalization project bringing degraded areas of the city out of a multidimensional crisis. It covers three districts focusing on the infrastructure and civil participation.
- **Babylingua (DE/FR)**: enabled cross-border care for 33 children in nurseries and 100 children in kindergartens.
- **Human Power Hub (PT)**: the social innovation centre, that focuses on accelerating and incubating entrepreneurial projects with social impact.
- **Towards POSSIBILITIES (LT)**: aimed to develop alternative community-based services for care institutions that help people of working age with mental or intellectual disabilities to live independently and participate in society.
- **Sphere Pardubice educational centre (CZ)**: automatic mills became the new cultural, educational and creative centre of the city. It offers the state of the art facilities to engage with children and public in science and technology..





Eligibility criteria

Eligibility of a project

- The application submitted via **the EU survey by 20.5.2025 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 five 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 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.





Application form

What information will you provide?

- Contact details
- Project information
- Description of the project
- Information on project's:
 - contribution to cohesion;
 - impact, innovation, sustainability;
 - citizens' engagement and transferability.
- Attachments:
 - managing authority endorsement letter;
 - 2-3 photos.

....applications to be submitted exclusively online through REGIOSTARS applications form on EU Survey



Step 1: Access via EU Login



REGIOSTARS 2025 APPLICATION FORM

Option 2: If you do not have pre-existing EU Login account, the system requires you to set up one.



Access via EU Login
Register



Option 1: You already have an EU Login (not necessarily associated with REGIOSTARS).



Pages

- Start
- I. Basic information
- II. Description of the project
- Cohesion and Impact
- Innovation and Sustainability
- Citizen Engagement and Transferability
- III. Attachments
- Submit



Welcome to the REGIOSTARS 2025 application form.

Please read the [Guide for Applicants](#) carefully before submitting your application.

Please fill-in the survey completely before submitting your application. We advise you to use the 'Word application form' (download below) to prepare your responses. Please note, however, that only applications submitted via this EU survey will be considered. The responses can be provided in all official EU languages. The application can be saved for further editing until it is submitted. Submitted applications cannot be modified anymore.

The deadline for applications is 20 May 2025.

For questions about the application process, please contact REGIO-REGIOSTARS@ec.europa.eu

Download: **Guide for Applicants**

[REGIOSTARS_2025 - Guide_for_Applicants.pdf](#)

Download: **Frequently Asked Questions**

[REGIOSTARS_2025_FAQ.pdf](#)

Download: **Word application form**

[REGIOSTARS_2025 - Application_form_template.docx](#)

Download: **Endorsement letter**

[REGIOSTARS_2025 - Endorsement_Letter.docx](#)

Download: **Privacy statement**

The Commission processes your personal data according to the regulation 2018/1725, for the details you can read the privacy statement.

[Privacy_statement_REGIOSTARS.pdf](#)

Next

Step 2: Fill in the pages in the application

Here you can find all supporting documents, read them carefully before submitting the application.



III. Attachments

3.1. Managing authority endorsement letter

* Please upload the managing authority endorsement letter

📎 Only files of the type pdf, are allowed

Select file(s) to upload

3.2. Images

Please attach 1-3 images to your application below. These will be used by the European Commission in communication towards the public. Please read carefully the clause on copyrights and authorisations below.

*

Picture 1.

Please upload your file

📎 Only files of the type png,jpg,jpeg,gif,bmp are allowed

Select file(s) to upload

Please indicate the copyright holder:

* Picture 2.

Please upload your file

📎 Only files of the type png,jpg,jpeg,gif,bmp are allowed

Select file(s) to upload

Please indicate the copyright holder:

Picture 3.

Please upload your file

📎 Only files of the type png,jpg,jpeg,gif,bmp are allowed

Select file(s) to upload

Please indicate the copyright holder:

Step 3: Upload all attachments



REGIOSTARS 2025 APPLICATION FORM

Fields marked with * are mandatory. ✕

Pages

Start | I. Basic information | II. Description of the project | Cohesion and Impact | Innovation and Sustainability
Citizen Engagement and Transferability | III. Attachments | **Submit**

Submit

*
 Protection of personal data

The applicants' personal data are treated in accordance with the provisions of Regulation (EU) 2018/1725 on the protection of individuals with regard to the processing of personal data by the European institutions and bodies and on the free movement of such data. I consent that:

- My personal data will be processed for the organisation of REGIOSTARS context as outlined in the privacy statement.
- Any personal data I have provided as part of the application is collected in agreement of that person and will be treated in line with the privacy statement.

*
 Conditions

By ticking this box, you declare that all the information provided in this form is factually correct, that the proposed project has not been proposed for the REGIOSTARS contest more than once before and that it has not been subject to any type of investigation, which could lead to a financial correction because of irregularities or fraud.

Previous **Submit**

Click here and you will receive a confirmation email.

Step 4: Submit!



How to save a draft application?

Interest to provide a
information on the

[Privacy statement](#)
[Word Application Form](#)


Contact
REGIO-REGIOSTARS@ec.europa.eu

[Download PDF version](#)

Save as Draft ← 1: Click here.

Last saved on
28/01/2025 11:56:07

[Report abuse](#)

Do not forget this link 

Your participation has been saved, but is not yet submitted.
Use this link to edit later on your answers.

2: Save the link.

<https://ec.europa.eu/eusurvey/runner/714d044c-657f-4bf8-946a-970d331e133f>

[Send this link by E-mail](#) [Copy to Clipboard](#)

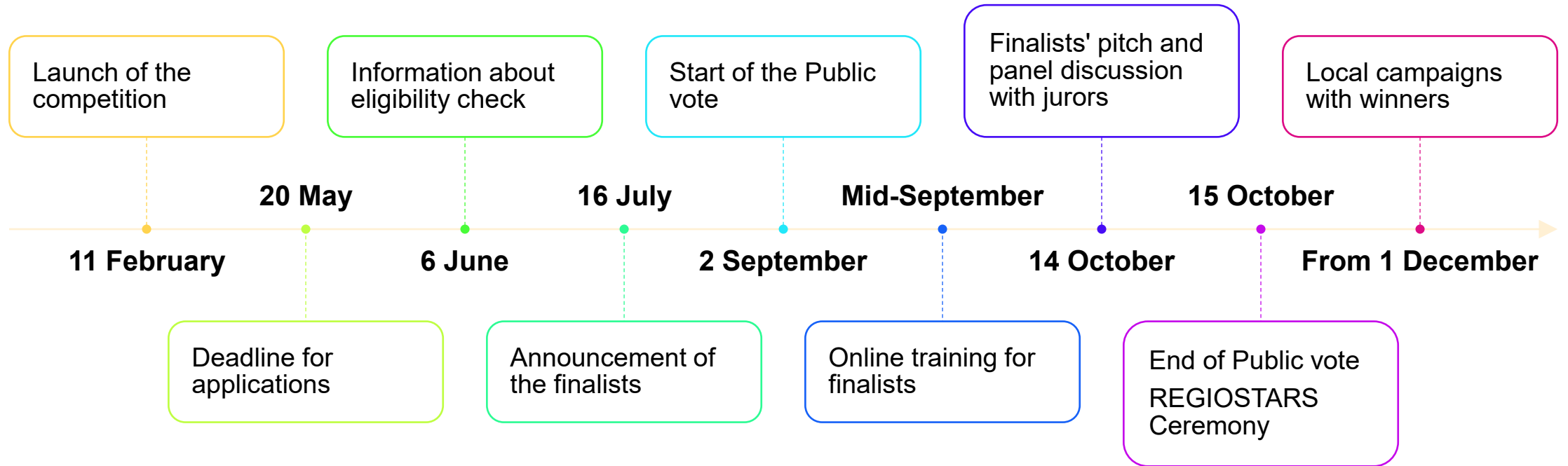
Need a copy of your current draft?

[Get PDF](#)



Timeline & second evaluation phase

Timeline



What the second phase of selection is about?

- It concerns up to 25 finalists (max. 5 per category)
- It happens during the EU Regions Week (13-15 October)
- It consists of two moments:
 - A public “on stage”: performance: project pitch of 6 minutes and 40 seconds, pecha kucha style (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 (all projects of the category together)



What is the role of Managing Authority?

- Promoting the REGIOSTARS Award at the national level (e.g. organizing the national RS competition), mobilizing suitable projects and providing support to projects
- Providing the applicant with a signed endorsement letter, ensuring that a maximum of 5 projects per programme are submitted
- Participating in the awards ceremony with all finalist projects





Final notes

Important links

- **REGIOSTARS website:** https://ec.europa.eu/regional_policy/projects/regio-stars-awards_en
 - Information about the competition
 - All materials available: Guide for applicants, application form, endorsement letter, frequently asked questions, visuals
- **Application form:** <https://ec.europa.eu/eusurvey/runner/REGIOSTARS-2025-application-form>
- **Canva links for editable visuals:** [Square](#), [Story](#), [Landscape](#), [Banner](#), [Signature](#)
- **Contact:** REGIO-REGIOSTARS@ec.europa.eu



The 2025 edition of the REGIOSTARS has been launched!

The European wide search for
the best cohesion policy projects in 2025 has begun.

.....submit your application to the REGIOSTARS contest
before 20 May 2025

What to look for?

2024 REGIOSTARS Ceremony: ec.europa.eu/regional_policy/videos/regio-stars-awards/regiostars2024/Regiostars_2024_ceremony.mp4





Your questions

Thank you, and looking forward for your applications!



© European Union 2025

Unless otherwise noted the reuse of this presentation is authorised under the [CC BY 4.0](https://creativecommons.org/licenses/by/4.0/) license. For any use or reproduction of elements that are not owned by the EU, permission may need to be sought directly from the respective right holders.

