

European Commission
Press release
Brussels, 2 October 2014

Scheme for business start-ups by mothers with young children wins top prize at EEPA 2014

The seven winners of the 8th edition of European Enterprise Promotion Awards (EEPA) were announced today. The Grand Jury Prize winner came from Hungary. The project, Encouraging Business Start-ups by Mothers with Young Children, helps mothers to acquire the entrepreneurial skills and mind-set needed to start a business and run it successfully. In Hungary, half of mothers with small children are not able to return to their job at the end of their maternity leave and employment of mothers with children under three is well below the EU average. Encouraging Business Start-ups by Mothers with Young Children is an exceptional project that helps mothers to acquire the entrepreneurial skills and mind-set to start a business and make it profitable. Since 2010, The Mother Company of the Year competition has allowed 443 mothers of young children to present their businesses whilst the Business Mums' Conference brings together mothers who are interested in business with those who are already entrepreneurs.

Six other projects from Lithuania, Bulgaria, Spain, Italy, Portugal and Germany were recognised for their work on simplifying business creation, promoting business start-ups and fostering entrepreneurial spirit. Projects from the UK, Austria and Portugal also received Special Mentions from the EEPA jury. The Awards ceremony took place today in Naples, Italy as part of the SME Assembly, the focus of European SME Week.

Ferdinando Nelli Feroci, Commissioner for Industry and Entrepreneurship, said: *"The winners of the European Enterprise Promotion Awards are shining examples of organisations which promote small and medium sized enterprises and entrepreneurship across Europe. It is projects such as these which help Europeans believe in entrepreneurship as a viable career option. I am delighted to see projects like these EEPA winners working so hard for the future entrepreneurs of Europe. The Commission is backing these efforts through the entrepreneurship action plan: we aim to encourage many more Europeans to become their own boss."*

The winners of the European Enterprise Promotion Awards 2014

Grand Jury Prize Winner

Hungary - Encouraging Business Start-ups by Mothers with Young Children helps mothers to acquire the entrepreneurial skills and mindset to start a business and make it profitable.

Responsible organisation: Gazdagmami Kft.

Organisation website: www.gazdagmami.hu

Promoting Entrepreneurial Spirit

Lithuania - Mobile Apps Laboratories is an initiative to promote entrepreneurship in information and communication technologies.

Responsible organisation: App Camp, JSC
Organisation website: <http://www.appcamp.lt/>

Investing in Entrepreneurial Skills

Bulgaria - Brandiko- Training in Building a Brand and Protecting it with a Community Trade Mark educates students on how to build a brand, register it and use it to increase sales.
Responsible organisation: Ministry of Economy & Energy
Organisation website: www.mi.government.bg

Improving the Business Environment

Spain – Start-up in 3 is a technology platform that streamlines and simplifies business creation and business start-up procedures in Spain.
Responsible organisation: Ministry of Finance and Public Administration (MINHAP)
Organisation website: www.minhap.es

Supporting the Internationalisation of Business

Italy - MIRABILIA: European Network of UNESCO Sites links together areas of common historical, cultural and environmental significance to promote them to Italian and foreign tourists.
Responsible organisation: Matera Chamber of Commerce, Industry, Crafts and Agriculture
Organisation website: www.mt.camcom.it
Project website: www.mirabilianetwork.eu

Supporting the Development of Green Markets and Resource Efficiency

Portugal - The AMS – Thinking Ahead project aims to become ‘the most efficient supplier of tissue on the Iberian issue Peninsula’, achieving this through innovation and differentiation.
Responsible organisation: Agency for Investment and Foreign Trade of Portugal, Public Enterprise (“AICEP”) in partnership with AMS-BR STAR PAPER, S.A. (“AMS”).
Organisation website: <http://www.portugalglobal.pt/PT/Paginas/Index.aspx>,
<http://www.amspt.eu/>

Responsible and Inclusive Entrepreneurship

Germany - Wiesbaden Engaged! The Corporate Citizenship Strategy of the City of Wiesbaden promotes the social sense of responsibility of businesses and entrepreneurs in Wiesbaden.
Responsible organisation: Municipality of the City of Wiesbaden - Agency for Social Work
Project website: www.wiesbaden.de
A full description of each initiative and the full list of winners, runners up and special mentions can be found in [MEMO/14/546](#).

Background

Since 2006, the European Enterprise Promotion Awards have rewarded public bodies and public-private partnerships who have shown excellence in promoting entrepreneurship and small businesses. Over 2 800 projects have entered during this time, and have supported the creation of thousands of new companies. The Awards' objectives are to create a greater awareness of the role entrepreneurs play in European society and encourage and inspire potential entrepreneurs. This is achieved by identifying and recognising successful activities

and initiatives to promote enterprise and entrepreneurship, and then showcasing and sharing examples of best entrepreneurship policies and practices.

Further information

For more information on the European Enterprise Promotion Awards, visit the [website](#), follow the Awards on Twitter in [English](#), [French](#), [Spanish](#), [Italian](#) or [German](#) or visit the official Awards [Facebook page](#).

[Entrepreneurship action plan](#)

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