EU CERC

Business Awards

2027

Rules of the Competition

EU CERC Business Awards 2027 – Terms and Conditions

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1. Presentation of the EU CERC Business Awards

1.1 Context

The circular economy is good for business, for innovation, for decent jobs, for strong and resilient economies, and for the environment. The transition needs new partnerships: Only with aligned incentives and international collaboration can the circular economy advance fast enough. Circularity is a key component of all EU strategies aimed at achieving a competitive, climate-neutral and resource-efficient economy. Measures are needed throughout value chains to make them circular. In an interconnected world, value chains for products and materials are global. Make Europe your partner for circularity! By building mutually beneficial partnerships we can drive progress towards circularity.

The EU Circular Economy Resource Centre (EU CERC) is a five-year project funded by the European Union and the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Finland, and implemented by Sitra, the Finnish Innovation Fund, and Enabel, the Belgian Development Agency. EU CERC aims to increase the uptake of sound and inclusive circular economy policies and business models, based on peer-to-peer exchanges and partnerships between the EU and partner country stakeholders. EU CERC operates through three interlinked labs: the Policy lab, the Knowledge lab and the Business Lab. The Policy and Knowledge labs are led by Sitra, whilst the Business lab is led by Enabel.

Each year, EU CERC recognizes and celebrates outstanding best practices in the circular economy through its Policy Implementation Award and Business Awards, respectively led by its Policy and Business labs.

1.2 Definitions

- “Organiser" means Enabel, at the initiative of EU CERC
- "Competition" means participation in the EU CERC Business Awards.
- "Candidates" means the person or company participating in this Competition "Rules" means this document.
- "Winner" means a Candidate who has won either of the Business Awards.
- "Jury" means the committee responsible for the selection of the Candidates, see point 3.3.
- "Site" means the website dedicated to the Competition at the following address: https://www.sitra.fi/en/eu-cerc/

1.3 Goal of the EU CERC Business Awards

The EU CERC Business Awards recognize and celebrate circular businesses in EU partner countries.

The Business Awards target circular business models, prioritizing solutions that circulate products and materials at their highest value and minimize waste and pollution.

The candidates for the EU CERC Business Awards must operate in one or more of the following circular business models, inspired by the Value Hill framework[1i]:

'Circular Design' models: smarter creation and use of products.

1. Use of circular inputs: businesses adopting sustainable sourcing of materials and resources in their production process ensuring they are fully renewable, recyclable or biodegradable such as renewable energy, bio-based-, secondary raw materials or remanufactured components. This also includes businesses implementing efficient design and production processes that reduce the consumption of raw materials and resources in the first place.
2. Design for circularity: businesses designing products for longevity, easy disassembly and repurposing (repairability, modularity, updatability), ensuring materials can be efficiently recovered at the end of their life (recyclability).

'Optimal Use' models: extending the lifetime of products.

3. Sharing platforms: businesses increasing the utilization rates of goods and resources through, for example, renting, sharing and resharing, through digital or physical platforms.
4. Product as a service: businesses offering to their clients the access to a product instead of the ownership of the product, through leasing or renting services; allowing businesses to maintain control over products, and enabling maintenance, reuse, or recycling.
5. Product life extension: businesses offering services such as repair, maintenance, and upgrades as well as businesses that sell consumables, spare parts and add-ons to support the longevity of products; thereby extending the product's lifespan and reducing the need for replacements.

'Value Recovery' models: useful application of materials.

6. Resource recovery model: businesses recovering products that are no longer functional in their current application, through refurbishing, remanufacturing, repurposing, or second-hand selling.
7. Resource recycling model: businesses recycling waste or recapturing materials and components from products that are no longer in use.

1.4 Two Business Awards

Each year, two Business Awards will be issued, one for each of the following categories:

- One Sectoral Award, celebrating best business practices in selected value chains.

[1] see 5dea74fe88e8a5c63e2c7121_finance-white-paper-20160923.pdf

- One Young Woman Entrepreneur Award, honoring circular economy solutions developed by young women entrepreneurs, recognizing their key role in advancing the circular economy.

The Sectoral Award will focus each year on a different sector, with the aim of building a network of good practices led by businesses active in similar value chains.

For the Young Woman Entrepreneur Award, all sectors are open for applications, provided the business activity is not included in the list of restricted activities described in paragraph 2.3.

1.5 The Circular Business Awards 2027

A. Categories:

- **The Sectoral Award**: the 2027 award will focus on the **Construction & Buildings** value chain, one of the key product value chains identified in the EU's Circular Economy Action Plan (CEAP)2. In that document, we can read: the built environment has a significant impact on many sectors of the economy, on local jobs and quality of life. It requires vast amounts of resources and accounts for about 50% of all extracted material. The construction sector is responsible for over 35% of the EU's total waste generation.
- **the Young Woman Entrepreneur Award:** for a company that was (co-)founded by a woman, who continues to (co-)lead the company, whilst she is currently not older than 35 years of age.

B. The Prize:

The two winners — respectively of (i) the "Construction & Buildings Business Award" and (ii) the "Young Woman Entrepreneur Award" — will each receive a prize consisting of:

(1) a **support package of €10,000** to strengthen the development of their circular economy strategies and enhance their international visibility and linkages with the EU market.

The two winners will be required to submit a **capacity building plan** to the EU CERC Business Lab. The plan will guide the identification of activities to be financed via the support package over the 12 months following the award. Eligible activities may include:

- Exchange visits and networking events, with a special focus on the European market.
- Personalized mentoring and coaching
- Investment readiness or preparation support
- Visibility and promotional actions
- Any other activities identified by the winners and which contribute to the strengthening of its circular business model and visibility.

[2] The CEAP 2020 update: https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/?qid=1583933814386&uri=COM:2020:98:FIN

(2) An **invitation to present their cases** at the main stage of the next **annual World Circular Economy Forum** (WCEF) that will take place in New York City from 8 to 11 June 2027 attended by thousands of public and private stakeholders from around the world.

The prize also includes:

- A ticket to attend WCEF2027;
- Coverage of travel-related costs (visa, airfare) to the event venue;
- Per diem support for accommodation and local expenses;
- Exclusive visibility opportunities during the WCEF, such as media coverage and short video presentations.

These participation-related costs will be reimbursed on a real-cost basis, up to a maximum total amount of **€5,000** per winner.

2. Conditions for participating

2.1 Technical requirements

Participation in the Competition is free of charge. Each candidate company can only submit **one proposal per award**. By accepting the Competition Rules, the candidate is informed that the Organiser may make all necessary checks regarding the identity, contact information and nationality of the candidates and the registration of their company.

Any incomplete, inaccurate, false or fraudulent information provided by a Candidate will be dealt with in accordance with Section 12 of these Rules.

Winners will need to meet the requirements for a business visa to travel to the next WCEF meeting (in June of 2027 in New York City, USA).

Eligibility Criteria

To be eligible for either of the Business Awards, candidate businesses must meet the following minimum **technical requirements**:

1. **Type of business** – Be a legally registered micro, small or medium-sized enterprise (MSME) or self-employed individuals, in accordance with the applicable national legislation of the applicant's country of registration.
2. **Circular business models** – Have implemented one or a combination of circular business models (as outlined in section 1.3).
3. **Years of operations** – Have implemented a successful business for at least three years. This means the company must have been incorporated before 1 November 2023.

4. **Country of operations** – Be officially registered and operating in one EU partner country. EU partner countries are countries eligible for Official Development Assistance, as defined by the OECD DAC[3],
5. **Decent work principles** – Be able to demonstrate the adoption of decent work principles in line with the Enabel decent work agenda. This includes providing employees with opportunities for productive work that offers fair income, workplace security and social protection[4].

In addition to these technical requirements, each category has its own specific criteria for eligibility.

2.2 Specific condition for each Award

A. Construction & Buildings Award

To be eligible for the Construction & Buildings Award, the business must meet the minimum technical requirements AND the following specific criterion:

Sector focus – Be operating and having adopted circular business models in the following value chain: Construction and Buildings.

Building and construction refers to the process of creating physical structures and infrastructure. This includes everything from residential homes to commercial skyscrapers, bridges, roads, and industrial facilities. Building specifically describes the act of assembling materials to create a structure. It focuses on the physical work of putting components together, laying bricks, installing beams, and fitting windows. Construction is a broader term. It covers the entire project lifecycle, from initial planning and design through completion. Construction includes site preparation, foundation work, structural assembly, and finishing touches.

This value chain covers all stages in the lifecycle of Construction and Buildings: production of raw materials, manufacturing of materials and products, design and engineering, construction and installation, (extended) use and maintenance, reuse and refurbishment, upto end-of-life management.

Circular construction entails the creation, utilisation, and repurposing of buildings, construction elements, products, materials, spaces, and infrastructure, all while minimising the depletion of natural resources, environmental pollution, and negative impacts on ecosystems. Specifically, regarding buildings, a circular structure maximises resource utilisation and minimises waste across its entire lifespan. If a new construction is built, it should be designed for longevity, adaptability, and disassembly.

[3] See the latest list here: https://www.oecd.org/en/topics/oda-eligibility-and-conditions/dac-list-of-oda-recipients.html#asterisk. Out of the many ODA countries, Iran, North Korea, Belarus and Syria are excluded due to EU sanctions. Additionally, the following territories are not considered as countries: Wallis and Futuna, Saint Helena, Niue, Montserrat and Tokelau.
[4] Enabel Decent Work Toolbox: https://www.decentworktoolbox.be/

B. Young Woman Business Award

To be eligible for the Young Woman Business Award, the business must meet the minimum technical requirements AND the following specific criteria:

- The business must have be founded or co-founded by a woman entrepreneur, confirmed by company website or incorporation documents,
- Who was born after 1 January 1991,
- demonstrating the key leadership role she has played and continues to play in business decision-making.

2.3 Unauthorised business activities

Please note, companies conducting the following activities are not eligible for the Competition:

- production of or trade in any illegal product or illegal activity in relation to the legislation of the country of intervention and Belgium or the regulations, conventions and/or international agreements;
- production or activity requiring forced or child labour;
- trade in animals, plants or any natural products that do not comply with the provisions of CITES;
- fishing activity using a drift net of more than 2.5 km in length;
- any operation that results in or requires the destruction of critical habitat, and any forestry project that does not implement a sustainable development and management plan;
- production, use or trade of hazardous materials such as asbestos fibres or products containing PCB6;
- production, use or trade of pharmaceuticals, pesticides/herbicides, ozone-depleting substances or any other hazardous products subject to an international ban or phase-out;
- cross-border trade in wastes, except those accepted by the Basel Convention and its underlying regulations;
- production of or trade in: weapons and/or ammunition; tobacco; strong alcohol for human consumption;
- gaming houses, casinos or any equivalent business;
- any business related to pornography or prostitution;
- any operation resulting in the irreversible modification or significant displacement of a critical cultural heritage element;
- production and distribution of, or participation in, media that are racist, anti-democratic or advocate discrimination against a segment of the population;
- exploitation of diamond mines and marketing of diamonds if the host State has not joined the Kimberley Process;
- any sector or service that is subject to a United Nations, European Union and/or Belgian embargo in a given State, without restriction of the absolute or relative amount.

3. How the Competition works

3.1 Steps of the Competition

The application process of the Business Awards is structured as follows:

Step 1: Online application

Applicant businesses must complete and submit an online application that can be found via the link that is shared in the last paragraph of this document. This application will be the only document consulted and must be written in French, English or Spanish.

The first part of the application includes the minimum requirements, including information on the type of business, circular economy models, years of operation, country of operation, decent work principles, sector focus, and business awards category.

Based on complete information and correct answers, the applicant may proceed to the **second part of the application form** containing questions related to the evaluation criteria as defined in paragraph 4 below.

At the end, you will be asked to **upload three documents**:

- a copy of the identity card of the submitter, if not the same, and if relevant, also of the Young Woman Entrepreneur
- a copy of company bylaws and/or proof of business registration/licensing
- a copy of the most recently submitted annual report

Step 2: Administrative check

Enabel will verify, on the basis of the information and supporting documents submitted with the application, that the Candidate meets the eligibility requirements set out in paragraphs 2.1 and 2.2. Only applications meeting all applicable eligibility requirements will proceed to Step 3.

Step 3: Shortlisting of Applications

The EU CERC Jury will review and assess all compliant applications based on a set of evaluation criteria (outlined in paragraph 4). The jury will short-list **the 5 top candidates** per award category, using the same evaluation criteria, and invite these to an interview.

Step 4: Interviews

The short-listed candidates will be invited for a **45-minute interview**, to be held in the preferred following language: English, French or Spanish.

These interviews will include a presentation of the circular business, the replicability and innovative practices, the motivation and business development plans, the added value of EU expertise and knowledge, the promotion of gender equality in the workplace, and how the prize would support the further development of their circular business strategies.

The interview will be held by members of the Jury. Depending on the language, maybe not the full jury will be able to participate in every interview.

Step 5: Final decision

The best proposals will be ranked according to the assessment made on the basis of the evaluation criteria.

After all interviews, the Jury will designate one winner in each category. The decision of the Jury is final and binding.

3.2 Timeline

- Application phase opens: Wednesday 18 November 2026.
- Application phase closes: 18 December 2026 at 12:00 (midday) CET (Brussels time).
- Administrative check: before 10 January 2027 (indicative date)
- Shortlisting of Applications: before 31 January 2027.
- Interviews: during February 2027
- Final decision: March 2027
- Award Ceremony at the World Circular Economy Forum: June 2027

The Organiser reserves the right to extend the deadline for the submission of candidatures at its sole discretion. Such an extension may be triggered if fewer than 20 applications for each award category have been received by the original deadline specified above. This measure aims to ensure adequate competition and is subject to the condition that the possibility of extension is clearly stated in the competition rules. Any extension will be communicated in writing to all candidates and published through the same channels as the original rules of competition. The extension shall apply equally to all potential candidates to uphold transparency and equal treatment. The conditions and selection procedure for such an extension remain subject to these regulations.

3.3 Composition of the Jury

The Jury will be composed of representatives from the EU CERC Business Lab, Enabel and Sitra. The jury may include additional external experts on circular economy.

4. Selection process and evaluation

Evaluation criteria

Most important is the following set of evaluation criteria. These questions will each feature in the questionnaire. You will be invited to explain each answer in the same questionnaire.

The jury will allocate points linked to these answers, which is crucial for the selection of the candidates that will be invited to interviews with the jury.

Criteria	Evaluation method

A. Type of circular business models	• 'Circular Design' models: avoid or reduce resource consumption before use. This category includes Use of circular inputs and Design for circularity business models.
	• 'Optimal Use' models: extend the lifespan of product during use. This category includes Sharing platforms, Product as a service, and Product life extension business models.
	• 'Value Recovery' models: recovering of product or recycling of materials that are no longer in use in their current application after use.
	  ○ Resource recovery business models
	  ○ Resource recycling business models

B. Tracking resource use reduction	• The business provides no or only vague evidence, anecdotal information regarding resource consumption reduction. • The business provides some evidence or indicative data of resource reduction. The information is partial, estimated, or not systematically tracked, showing an initial effort but lacking robustness. • The business provides clear, consistent and significant evidence of resource reduction, supported by reliable, quantifiable data (e.g., percentages, volume saved over time).
C. Linkages with the European market	• The business has no existing linkages with the European market. • The business has made initial contact or informal linkages with EU actors (e.g. exchanges, early-stage discussions, ad hoc sales). • The business provides clear evidence of strategy and engagement with the EU market, with proof of formal partnerships.
D. Replicability of the business model	• The company, or another company, has not yet replicated the circular business model outside the initial market. • The circular business model has good potential to be replicated outside its initial market by the company or another company. • The circular business model has already been replicated successfully outside its original market by the company or another company.
E. Innovation	• The circular business does not introduce a new or improved (i) technology, (ii) product or service, (iii) process or (iv) collaboration or partnership. • The circular business introduces a moderately new or improved (i) technology, (ii) product or service, (iii) process or (iv) collaboration or partnership. • The circular business introduces a very new or improved (i) technology, (ii) product or service, (iii) process or (iv) collaboration or

Criteria	Evaluation method
	partnership which demonstrates leadership in advancing the circular economy.
F. Promoting gender equality	• The business provides no or vague evidence of actions promoting gender equality in the workplace. • The business takes some actions to promote gender equality, but efforts are limited or not well explained. • The business actively promotes gender equality with clear policies, practices, and outcomes.
G. Women in managerial positions	• Women hold few or no managerial positions (less than 10% of the managerial positions are held by women). • Women are present in some managerial roles (10-30%). • Women are well represented in managerial positions (>30%).

The Organiser will maintain appropriate records of the evaluation and selection process, including the individual evaluation sheets, where applicable, the consolidated assessment and final ranking, and a record of the Jury's final decision and the reasons supporting it.

5. Final decision and publication of results

The Jury will designate one winner for each of the two award categories. At the end of the Competition, all Candidates will be notified by e-mail of the final decision of the Jury. The e-mail will be sent to the e-mail address listed on the Competition submission form. The notification will indicate whether the application has been selected and may include a summary of the main reasons for the decision, based on the evaluation criteria set out in these Rules.

The Organiser cannot be held liable if the email address provided does not match the Candidate's, is incorrect, or if the Candidate is unavailable, unreachable, has changed her email address, or experiences issues due to the Internet service provider or network failure. If the Winner does not respond within seven (7) calendar days of sending the notification email confirming him/her as the Competition Winner, the prize will be awarded to the second-place Candidate, designated as the Alternate Winner.

The names of the Winners will be made public at the World Circular Economy Forum to be organized in New York City, USA in June of 2027. The results will also be published through the various communication channels of the Organiser and its partners.

In the event of a dispute between the Organiser and the Candidate, the parties will work together to find a solution. If necessary, the Candidate may request mediation at the email address complaints@enabel.be, cf. https://www.enabel.be/content/complaints-management.

6. Commitments of the Candidates

6.1 Commitments during the Competition

Candidates in the Competition formally agree to:

- unreservedly accept these Rules in their entirety;
- demonstrate sincerity and good faith in completing their application form;
- respond to all requests for additional information made during the selection process;
- respect the different steps of the selection process, and the deadlines for submitting the requested documents.

Any incomplete, inaccurate, false, forged or fraudulent information provided by a Candidate will be dealt with in accordance with Section 12 of these Rules.

6.2 Commitments after step 3

The Candidates selected at the first stage of the Competition agree to participate in the various interviews with the Jury.

Candidates also agree to send all the documents necessary for the continuation of their application for the members of the Jury to make their final decision.

6.3 Commitments of Competition Winners

The Winners of the Award agree to participate in the production of an audiovisual report about them. This audiovisual report will be broadcast during the award ceremony at the first next WCEF.

7. Withdrawal from the Competition

Any Candidate wanting to withdraw her application from the Competition before its closing date must notify the Organiser by sending an email to eucerc@enabel.be. This withdrawal makes her ineligible for the current year's Competition.

8. Advertising

The Organiser may carry out promotional and publicity activities related to the Competition. Where such activities involve the use of a Candidate's or an individual's name, image, contact details or other personal data for promotional purposes, the Organiser will obtain the prior authorisation of the individual concerned, where required. Such authorisation will be obtained separately from acceptance of these Rules and may be refused or withdrawn without affecting participation in the Competition.

This use may not give rise to any consideration, whether in kind or financial.

9. Intellectual property

The Organiser and the members of the Jury are obliged to treat all information about the Candidates as strictly confidential.

Information contained in an application will not be disclosed outside the Competition except where such disclosure is necessary for the organisation and administration of the Competition, required by law, or expressly authorised by the Candidate or the individual concerned, as applicable. This does not prevent the Organiser from publishing information relating to the Winners and their projects for communication and promotional purposes in accordance with Section 8 and the applicable data protection rules.

Commented [AL1]: Article 8 requires the Candidate's express consent for any use of their personal data for promotional purposes.

In accordance with the laws governing literary and artistic property rights, the reproduction, representation or exploitation of all or part of the elements relating to the Competition are strictly prohibited.

10. Guarantees

Candidates undertake to ensure that any information relating to their application submitted in the context of the Competition will not infringe on the rights of third parties, whatever the nature or legal basis thereof.

11. Acceptance of the Rules

Participation in the Competition implies the Candidates' unconditional acceptance of these Rules in their entirety, of the rules of ethics in force on the Internet, as well as of the laws, regulations and other texts applicable in the countries involved in the Competition. Candidates must indicate their acceptance of these Rules and the granting of rights thereunder by ticking the boxes provided for without the restriction of that purpose on the entry form when registering online. Sending an application by email amounts to acceptance of these rules.

Participation in the Competition implies knowledge and acceptance of the characteristics and limits of the Internet, particularly with regard to technical performance, response times for consulting and transferring information, the risks of interruption and, more generally, the risks inherent to any connection and transmission on the Internet, the lack of protection

of certain data against possible misappropriation and the risks of contamination by any viruses circulating on the network. The Organiser does not accept any liability for the risks associated with the limitations of the Internet.

12. Liabilities of the Candidates

Candidates must comply with all these Rules.

Each Candidate agrees to:

- not defame, assault, or violate the rights of others;
- not cause offence to public order and morality (in particular, apology for crimes against humanity, incitement to racial hatred, pornography, etc.);
- not create a false identity or impersonate another person;
- not reproduce and/or use the brand, the company name, the logo or any distinctive sign of a third party without their formal agreement;
- not infringe on the privacy and image rights of a third party;
- not carry out a project contrary to the interests of the Organiser;
- not transmit any material that infringes on intellectual property rights, trademark rights, patent rights or copyrights.

The Organiser may take appropriate measures where there are reasonable grounds to suspect fraud or other serious misconduct in connection with the Competition. Such measures may include requesting further information or supporting documents, suspending the examination of the application concerned or, where the integrity or proper conduct of the Competition as a whole is affected, suspending or cancelling all or part of the Competition. Fraud may include, without limitation:

- the fact that a Candidate does not register with her own identity
- the fact that a Candidate registers multiple times with different email addresses

In the event that a Candidate fails to comply with the Rules, the Organiser reserves the right, having regard to the nature and seriousness of the breach, to disqualify any entry from the Candidate, without them being able to make any claim whatsoever. The Organiser also reserves the right not to award, or to withdraw, a prize where fraud or a serious breach of these Rules has been established, and to take any appropriate legal action before the competent courts.

Any established fraud may result in the Candidate's exclusion from the Competition and from future editions of the Competition for a period of up to three (3) years, depending on the nature and seriousness of the fraud.

It is specified that the Organiser cannot be held liable for any direct or indirect damage resulting from an interruption or malfunction of any kind, for any reason whatsoever, or for any direct or indirect damage resulting, in any way whatsoever, from a connection to the online form.

It is the responsibility of each Candidate to take all appropriate measures to protect their own data and/or software stored on their computer equipment from being compromised. The connection of any person to the platform of the form and their participation take place under their full liability.

13. Force majeure and right to extension

The Organiser cannot be held liable for any modification, shortening, or cancellation of the Competition due to force majeure or events beyond its control.

The Organiser reserves the right to extend the participation period and postpone any announced dates where this is reasonably necessary to ensure fairness and proper conduct of the Competition, including, but not limited to, where the number of applications received is insufficient, as provided for in Section 3.2.

Any such extension or postponement shall take effect upon publication online and shall be communicated to the applicants concerned.

Submission of an application constitutes tacit acceptance of the Rules and any modifications. Any Candidate refusing to accept the modification(s) to the Rules will be required to stop participating in the Competition.

No compensation can be claimed by the Candidates.

14. Personal data

Personal data provided by Candidates in connection with the Competition will be processed by the Organiser, Enabel, acting as data controller, solely for the purposes of organising and administering the Competition, assessing applications, selecting the Winners, communicating with Candidates and, where applicable, awarding and administering the prizes. Only personal data necessary for these purposes will be collected and processed. The provision of personal data identified as mandatory in the application form is necessary to assess the application; failure to provide such data may prevent participation in the Competition.

Personal data may be accessed by authorised staff of the Organiser, members of the Jury and, where necessary for the purposes described above, the Organiser's partners and service providers acting on its behalf. Access and disclosure will be limited to the personal data necessary for their respective tasks. Personal data will not be disclosed to third parties for purposes unrelated to the Competition, unless required by law.

Where personal data is used for optional promotional purposes on the basis of consent, the prior, specific and informed consent of the individuals concerned will be obtained separately from acceptance of these Rules. Such consent may be refused or withdrawn at any time without affecting participation in the Competition or the lawfulness of processing carried out before its withdrawal.

Personal data is collected when Candidates complete the online Competition entry form. This personal data is used to ensure the proper management of participation in the

Competition. Personal data is processed in accordance with the privacy law applicable in Belgium and in the countries where this Competition is launched.

Personal data will be retained only for as long as necessary for the purposes described above and in accordance with the Organiser's applicable retention periods. In any event, personal data relating to applicants will not be retained for longer than four (4) years following the end of the Competition, unless a longer retention period is required by law or is necessary for the establishment, exercise or defence of legal claims.

The personal data collected in the context of this call for applications is processed in accordance with the law of 3 December 2017, amended according to Belgian law, under the Data Protection Authority. In application of this law, all Candidates in the Competition have the right to access, rectify or delete their personal data.

Any request for access, rectification or deletion should be addressed to EUCERC@enabel.be

15. Applicable law and interpretation

Any question regarding the application or interpretation of the Rules, as well as any unforeseen issues that may arise, shall be decided by the Organiser at its sole discretion, depending on the nature of the question, in compliance with Belgian law.

The courts and tribunals of Brussels shall have exclusive jurisdiction to hear any disputes relating to the Competition.

No oral requests regarding the Competition or its results will be accepted. The Rules are available in English only.

16. Online Application Form and Contact

The online Application Form can be found via this link:

https://www.sitra.fi/en/business-awards-by-the-eu-cerc/

In case of any (technical) questions, please contact Enabel via

EUCERC@enabel.be .

Thank you for considering and good luck submitting your application!