

AEBR 'Sail of Papenburg' Cross-Border Award

Main idea

On the occasion of the Annual Conference and General Assembly 2002 (Papenburg/Groningen) of the Association of European Border Regions (AEBR), the Ems Dollart Region (EDR) endowed the AEBR 'Sail of Papenburg' Cross-Border Award.

The award honours particular achievements in the area of cross-border cooperation, e.g. in the cultural, economic, institutional, environmental and social sphere in a border or cross-border region.

The award honours and motivates: it honours outstanding programmes / strategies, projects and actions within the scope of cross-border co-operation that preferably can be seen as exemplary. At the same time it should motivate border and cross-border regions to actively contribute to a better understanding and better relations at the borders between the nations throughout Europe. Thereby European integration at the borders will be directly promoted.

Although the Sail of Papenburg is above all a prestige award, in exceptional circumstances prize money may be granted to financially support efforts made by a particular region.

Presentation by AEBR

Target criteria:

Honoured are outstanding achievements in and / or by a border and cross-border region (subnational entities). In principle only organisations aiming to boost direct neighbourly cooperation along a national border are eligible for the award¹. They include in particular institutionalised cross-border associations (eg. Euroregions and similar structures). Membership in the European Union or AEBR is not required.

Applicants may submit cross-border projects (individual and packages), measures and / or also overall achievements / efforts (programmes / strategies) in a border or cross-border region.

The specific guidelines for every year (motto, individual project or programme / strategy etc.) are settled by the AEBR. The motto for the year 2016 is: "**Border obstacles – What we have achieved!**"

Annex 1 gives some more explanations on the topic.

The achievement winning the award should be so convincing that others are induced to imitate it. The practical feasibility and application of model solutions should therefore be paramount.

Individual or joint achievements that are innovative in their approach and exceptionally effective are given particular consideration.

When evaluating achievements (in accordance to the respective guidelines), the quality of the individual measures implemented as well as some projects and / or a programme / a strategy are taken into account. At the same time, cross-border cooperation in particular contexts (specific difficulties, etc.) and supraregional / European significance is also taken into account. What will be decisive is also the added value (e.g. cross-border, European etc.).

¹ The award does not honour interregional or transnational projects and programmes.

Procedure:

The Executive Committee and the Secretary General call on and set a deadline for **border and cross-border regions** to submit proposals and specify a theme annually.

The measures to be awarded should ***show the way of a border or cross-border region into the future. Concrete and comprehensible plans for projects/measures/strategies should be described (and not only ideas)***. Any project, which has already received an award, will not be considered again.

Evaluation:

The winner of the AEBR Cross-Border Award is decided by majority decision on the part of the members of the AEBR Executive Committee.

An independent panel appointed by the Executive Committee for a three-year period assesses the submitted proposals (evaluation sheet is enclosed in the annex).

The panel should consist of at least five members and presents the assessed proposals to the Executive Committee for final decision.

Bestowing the award:

The award winner receives a 'Sail of Papenburg' award.

Usually the award ceremony takes place each year at the AEBR Annual Conference/General Assembly. The laureate is informed prior to the General Assembly/Annual Conference.

(2016)