

'Sail of Papenburg' Cross-Border Award

Main idea

On the occasion of the Annual Congress and 2002 General Assembly (Papenburg/Groningen) of the Association of European Border Regions (AEBR), the Ems Dollart Region (EDR) is endowing the 'Sail of Papenburg' Cross-Border Award as rotating prize.

The award will honour particular achievements in cross-border cooperation. for instance in the cultural, economic, environmental and social spheres.

The award is intended both to acknowledge past achievements and stimulate further efforts: it will reward outstanding commitment, projects and actions which can be seen as exemplary and should also encourage border and cross-border regions to try and make an active contribution towards a better understanding and relations between the peoples of Europe and thereby directly promote European integration at the continent's borders.

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

Presentation by AEBR

Target criteria:

Outstanding achievements in the area of cross-border cooperation by border and cross-border regions (i.e. subnational entities) will be rewarded.

Individual projects or measures or even overall achievements and efforts may be honoured. In principle only those organisations aiming to boost cooperation across at least one national border will be eligible for the award. In the first instance, the candidates are therefore institutionalised cross-border partnerships. Membership of the European Union or AEBR is not required.

The award should serve first and foremost to set an example to other people, groups, associations and organisations.

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

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

When evaluating achievements, the quality of the individual measures implemented will be taken into account, not just the full range of measures in their entirety. At the same time, cross-border cooperation in particular contexts (with specific difficulties, etc.) and supraregional significance (political, historical) will also be taken into account. What will be decisive is the added value which the measure(s) give to all participants.

Achievements can be made through:

- measures and projects promoting socio-cultural exchanges between neighbouring countries/regions;
- cultural, social, environmental or economic joint projects designed to help people establish, develop and intensify contacts;
- measures for improving the cross-border infrastructure;
- exemplary support of cross-border aims;
- political cooperation aimed in particular at simplifying or approximating administrative procedures or eliminating red tape;
- exemplary promotion of the public good on both sides of the border;
- strengthening democracy, engaging in partnerships and adhering to the principle of subsidiarity.

Procedure:

There is no advertisement to submit entries for the Cross-Border Award. The Executive Committee and management will generally invite the submission of proposals and specify a theme for that particular year's award.

All proposals must be submitted by one month prior to the beginning of the next Annual Congress/General Assembly. The measures entering into consideration for the Award should have been carried out within the previous year. Longer-term projects can only be proposed once, with the main part of the project having to take place during the respective qualifying period. Any project which has already received an award will not be considered again.

Evaluation:

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

The submitted proposals will be assessed by an independent panel appointed by the Executive Committee for a three-year period. The members of this panel will include leading figures, especially from AEBR member organisations, but also from various areas of society (business, culture, politics, science, etc.) who can contribute their know-how, experience and judgement to their work on the panel.

The panel should consist of at least five members and will present the assessed proposals to the Executive Committee, which will then select the winner of that particular year's award.

Bestowing the award:

The full-size version of the Cross-Border Award will be passed from winner to winner each year. Each award winner will also receive a smaller version of the 'Sail of Papenburg' to keep.

The award ceremony will take place each year at the AEBR Annual Congress/General Assembly. This will help the award to gain international recognition, will guarantee a strong impact effect outside the Association and should have a motivating effect.

Dr Reinhold Kolck
Chairman

Drs Eric Neef
Manager