

Innovate for Impact: EU|BIC Excellence Awards 2024 - Awarding the Most Innovative and Impactful Programme from EU|BIC Community

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Call for Applications

Innovate for Impact: EU|BIC Excellence Awards 2024

Celebrating excellence in business and entrepreneurship support, in 2024 we are awarding and recognising the impact EU|BICs generate on their territory.

Marking the 40th anniversary of the EU|BIC community, EBN is showcasing its members' contributions, shedding light on their initiatives, and fulfilling actively advancing its mission to identify, commemorate, share, and prominently feature, the most effective practices within its community.

Are you a dynamic business support organisation committed to fostering innovation and entrepreneurship? EBN is excited to announce the search for the most innovative and impactful business support programme implemented by the EU|BIC community members to recognize and celebrate their outstanding contributions to the business ecosystem.

The 7 finalists will be on stage of EBN Congress 2024 to pitch their programme, and the EU|BIC community will decide the winner of the first edition of the EBN Awards. A prestigious certificate recognizing the winning programme's excellence in business support will be awarded during EBN Congress 2024 in Nantes.

The winner will be **featured in next EBN publications and events**, showcasing achievements and best practices, and will have the opportunity to further connect with fellow business support organizations, potential partners, and entrepreneurs during exclusive EBN event – EBN Techcamp 2024. The winner will benefit of **2 free tickets for their presence at EBN TechCamp 2024 taking place 19 – 21 November in Dublin, Ireland.**

Call application

The call for applications opens on the 18th of January 2024 and closes on the 15th March 2024.

[You can find the application form here](#)

The following information is requested:

- General information about EU|BIC
- The need/challenge
- The Programme (overview about the programme, innovative elements etc)
- Implementation of the programme (more info on tools, methodologies, structure of the programme, staff involved etc)
- Impact
- Transferability

Check [this document](#) to see how the application form is structured and the required information for each section.

Proposal Evaluation and Selection

All proposals submitted before the deadline will pass an eligibility check (see eligibility criteria) and will go through a 3 steps evaluation process:

1. Internal Assessment by EBN team

Each entry meeting the eligibility criteria will be assessed by 2 EBN team members who will individually evaluate the proposal according to a standardised scoring system mirroring the evaluation criteria described below. Average scoring of all assessed proposal will result in a preliminary ranking list.

2. Collaborative Review Meeting

EBN will convene a collaborative review meeting with Atlanpole, host of the event, Further host of upcoming event – 2024 EBN Techcamp – and with additional former executives of the EU|BIC community to discuss top 15 applications and finalise assessments. The meeting will lead to the selection of the 5 finalists that will pitch their programmes on stage at EBN Congress 2024.

3. EU|BIC Community Decision

The top 7 innovative initiatives will have the chance to pitch their programme on stage at the 2024 EBN Congress. They will be able to promote their work and “campaign” for votes. Among the 7, the winner will be selected by the audience present in Nantes and the award will be given during the networking dinner on 13 June 2024.

Communication between the EBN team and applicants during the application assessment process will be carried out primarily via email.

Eligibility criteria

In order to be eligible to apply and participate, applicants must meet the following criteria:

1. **EU|BIC Membership:** Only EU|BIC Community member organisations are eligible to participate.
2. **Participation at EBN Congress 2024:** Only submissions coming from EU|BIC community members attending EBN Congress are taken into account.

Assessment Criteria

Once the eligibility check is performed, the EBN team will review and evaluate the nominations using the following criteria and scoring:

1. The need/challenge description > this criterion considers the context in which the programme was developed and implemented, the need they detected and the identified target beneficiaries. (15 points)

2. The business support programme description > this criterion assesses the overall programme innovation looking at innovative approaches that have significantly contributed to the creation, growth and development of new innovative businesses, and the implementation of the programme (the activities, tools, methodologies, structure of the programme, staff involved, focus on digitalization, focus on skills, etc). (30 points)
3. Impact > this criterion assesses the impact generated by the programme looking at its economic, social and environmental outcomes. It also considers the sustainability and inclusion dimensions of the programme, and the stakeholders engagement. (30 points)
4. Transferability > this criterion considers the transferability of the programme (or part of it) to other members of the EU|BIC community. (15 points)
5. Communication > This criterion assesses the slide-deck submitted by the applicant to briefly present the programme – max 15 slides in English – and other supporting documents such as video, brochure or other comms materials developed for the programme itself. (10 points)

100/100 is the max scoring.

Call timeline

Timetable and deadlines	
Contest launch	18 th January 2024
Applications due	15 th March
Evaluation	Throughout April 2024
7 Finalists announced	End of April 2024
Pitching session & Award ceremony	June 2024

Useful information

- For any clarification you might need, please email: Chiara.Davalli@ebn.eu. Please specify “EBN Awards 2024” in the email subject.
- [Online Application Form](#)

Join us in celebrating the champions of business support and entrepreneurship! Together, let's shape a thriving future for businesses across the EU.

 Empowering Entrepreneurs, Igniting Innovation – EU|BIC Community 