



European Natura 2000 Award – 2024 edition

Eligibility criteria for applications

1. Applications must be submitted using the online application form on the Natura 2000 Award website.

2. Any entity or group based in the EU can apply.

No individual or organisation involved in the management of the 2024 edition of the Natura 2000 Award can apply though.

In principle, partner applicants should also be based in the EU. However, non-EU partner applicants can be accepted in cases where they bring a real added value to the application.

3. Applications can be in any of the official EU languages except for Maltese and Gaelic.
4. Applications must be linked to at least one Natura 2000 site.

All applications must choose one principal Natura 2000 site. If an application covers activities in more than one site, the additional sites can also be mentioned in the application.

If an application covers activities or achievements that are not site-related, the applicant must nevertheless demonstrate a direct relevance to one or more Natura 2000 sites.

5. Applications to the *Conservation on land* and *Marine conservation* categories must focus on a species and/or habitat types for which the application's principal Natura 2000 site is designated.

Species and/or habitat types mentioned in the application must therefore appear in:

- The Habitats Directive (Annex 1 or 2); or
- The Birds Directive (Annex 1 or regularly occurring migratory bird species not listed in Annex 1).

The species or habitat type must be in the standard data form (SDF) of the targeted site(s). The only exception is if the competent authority provides a letter of support indicating that the SDF has been changed or is in the process of being changed.

For the other categories, applications do not have to include activities directly linked to a species or habitat type. If they do, however, they must fulfil the conditions above.

6. Applications must present tangible results achieved in the past five years.

For the 2024 edition, the application must clearly cover tangible results achieved between *September 2018 and September 2023*. The implementation of the activities presented in the application can have begun more than five years ago and it can still be ongoing.

7. An applicant can submit more than one application for the same or different categories in the same edition.

However, the applications must be sufficiently different from each other and cover different activities or achievements and a different principal Natura 2000 site.

If an applicant is in doubt about which category best applies to their application, they should choose one category that seems the most suitable for their application.

8. Two (or more) applicants cannot apply for the same principal Natura 2000 site under the same category in the same edition.

If several organisations wish to submit applications for the same principalsite(s) under the same category, they should submit a joint application.

9. An applicant may resubmit an unsuccessful application from a previous edition.

Applicants from previous calls should take into account the feedback they received from the European Commission and update and improve their application accordingly.

10. Winning applications cannot be resubmitted by any applicant.

This includes all applications that include the same activities or achievements and principal species or habitat types as a previously winning application, even submitted under a different category.