

European Responsible Care Awards 2024 – Submission Guidelines

The closing date for applications **12th July 2024**– Email address for further information: RCAwards@cefic.be

The European Responsible Care Awards are open to all companies and /or sites that are practicing Responsible Care along the supply chain in Europe. National associations and affiliate associations are also eligible to participate provided they have signed up to Responsible Care or have a Responsible Care Partnership Agreement with Cefic.

The 2024 Responsible Care Awards will reflect on ways Responsible Care Principles can support the key themes of the Antwerp Declaration for the European Industrial Deal; building a competitive, resilient and sustainable future. This year we will highlight projects and initiatives that are shaping the future of the chemical industry in Europe. Share your efforts that contribute to a more innovative and competitive chemical industry in Europe.

Over five categories, the spotlight will be given to leading organisations who are seen as driving forward the EU chemicals industry in championing the ambitions outlined in the declaration. All valid submissions will be recognised.

Companies and national associations are invited to submit projects in the following categories:

- High quality jobs in Europe (Skilled workforce)
- Time for change (Circularity & Climate Neutrality, Digitalisation & Innovation, Transition to Safe and Sustainable chemicals)
- Improving European competitiveness (Innovative projects, Partnerships)
- Process safety & Cybersecurity enhancement
- Small is beautiful (Big projects in small companies)

Criteria for entries

- Include **additional supporting materials** such as photos, images, short videos, PowerPoint presentation, testimonials, etc **demonstrating the initiative's benefits** including **facts, figures**, along with how the project has been **communicated to employees and stakeholders** where relevant, **showing a long-lasting efforts/drive for continuous improvement** and if the projects is **towards sustainable and circular economy**.
- Entries must be **in English** using the Responsible Care application form.
- Applicants should **be located in Europe**.
- The **project must have already started**.

Guidance for entries

- Entries should include a **clear description of the initiatives**, outlining its aim and **objectives and list of actions**.
- An independent jury will assess valid entries and give comments.
- Only provide **information that can be made public** in compliance with applicable law. All information will be verified before publication.
- All applicants will be notified with regard to their submission.

- Please **note that generic marketing material is not appropriate**. Jury members will be considered as not applicable to the projects as product placement/"advertising". Please **remain as factual/objective and to the point as possible**.

Description of the categories

It is proposed to condense the recognitions into five categories:

High quality jobs in Europe

- Skilled workforce: Initiatives that demonstrate the organisation's efforts to adapt its workforce to the challenges of industry's transition e.g. resources efficiency, climate adaptation and digital transformation. This includes fostering a culture of continuous learning to re-skilling and up-skilling of the workforce and showcasing the benefits of staff attraction, retention, employability and productivity.

Time for change

- Circularity and Climate neutrality: Initiatives that demonstrate efforts to reduce the use of non-renewable resources during production and ensuring the chemicals are recyclable by design. Implementing energy-efficient technologies and industry processes, exploring renewable and low-carbon energy sources, and exploring alternative feedstocks.
- Digitalisation & Innovation: Initiative that successfully leverage digitalization to optimize processes, enhance operational efficiency, and foster innovation across various facets of chemical production and supply chain management. Initiatives that deploy digital technologies such as artificial intelligence, robotics and Distributed ledger technologies (DLT) like blockchain, amongst others. Projects that demonstrate the business benefits of innovation, the novelty value and, the acceleration of the industry's transformation through digital technologies implementation all towards sustainable and circular economy.
- Transition to safe and sustainable chemicals: Initiatives that demonstrate a commitment and achievements in promoting and implementing innovative/breakthrough chemical safety practices such as risk assessment, adequate occupational training, chemical labelling and documentation of chemical inventories, safety data sheets, etc. Enhancing workplace safety, minimizing environmental impact, and ensuring the responsible and secure handling, storage, and disposal of chemicals. Dedication to continuous and innovative safety culture to bring the chemical industry to the next performance stage (Aiming to Zero Accident). Projects and initiatives towards developing and bringing to the market safe and sustainable chemicals, materials, products, processes, and services.

Improving European competitiveness

- Innovative projects: Companies that have made significant investments in new/innovative facilities, research and development, technologies, or projects which aim at advancing sustainability. Initiatives that drive economic growth, create jobs, and contribute to the development of innovative products, processes, or services that help solve today's societal challenges such as climate change, water conservation, environmental improvement, etc.
- Partnerships: Initiative showing all kinds of successful collaboration related to one of the above categories, like value chain partnerships, cross industry alliances, working with universities/academia/schools or NGOs and the community, etc. to share skills, information and knowledge to support each other and achieve a collective goal in the country/in Europe and in other regions.

Process safety Cyber Security enhancement

- Process safety and cyber security: Initiatives integrating safety and cybersecurity European NIS Directive principles into organizational culture, processes, and systems for managing risk and safeguarding critical assets and infrastructure in the chemical industry. Examples of enhanced process safety implemented can include effective communication across the site or the organisation, appropriate level of process safety competency and knowledge of the staff, improvement of safety performance resulted from innovation and drive for continuous improvement, share good practices to other organisations, etc. Examples of cybersecurity enhancement can include, culture of security development, cooperation, sharing good practices and dissemination lessons learned between stakeholders.

Small is beautiful

- Big projects in small companies: This category will allow small and medium size companies to participate and apply in the above category/ies and not to compete their project/s with multinationals.

Questions?

Should you have any question regarding the submission of your entry or any other aspects, please contact: RCAwards@cefic.be