



## **GRI AWARDS EUROPE 2026 - GENERAL REGULATIONS**

### **1. ABOUT THE AWARDS**

The GRI Awards are a recognition by GRI Institute of companies that have excelled in the European real estate market, representing greatness and innovation in the sector with projects that are benchmarks in their categories.

### **2. AWARD COORDINATION**

The GRI Awards were born in 2019 and are organised by GRI Institute, an institution that brings together leaders from companies operating in the real estate industry across more than 110 countries.

Founded in 1998 in London, GRI Institute fosters relationships and connections among executives to generate new business opportunities, as well as promote closer ties and partnerships between the public and private sectors, encouraging the growth of both industries through the production and distribution of content.

### **3. GENERAL CONDITIONS OF APPLICATION AND PARTICIPATION**

The GRI Awards Europe are directed towards professionals in the European real estate market. Any company operating in the sector may submit projects for the awards within the announced deadline. All project submissions must be accompanied by a submission fee.

**3.1 Eligibility:** Companies must ensure that the projects or transactions meet the eligibility criteria specific to each category.

- Real estate projects, initiatives, companies, or transactions that took place in Europe;
- Open to real estate projects that were fully delivered or had their first phase completed between 2025 and 2026.
- There is no limit to the number of projects that a company can submit, as long as all are eligible;
- The same project can be submitted in different categories, provided that it meets the criteria. The project will be evaluated separately in each category;
- Projects that were submitted in previous editions of the GRI Awards Europe may be submitted for the 2026 edition, as long as the project was not a winner in its category in past editions.



- Any project that fails to meet the eligibility requirements shall be subject to disqualification.
- The GRI Awards Organizing Committee reserves the right to review the classification of the registered companies and request additional information to ensure the correct application of the established criteria.

**3.2 Submission Fee:** A fee of €800 applies. Only after confirmation of the submission fee payment will the project be officially eligible for evaluation and participation.

Upon payment of the submission fee, the registered company will receive, via email, an individual login to access its project profile on the GRI Awards Europe 2026 website.

**3.3 Refund Policy:** The submission fee is non-refundable, including in cases where projects are not selected as finalists, except as expressly provided in Section 3.8 of these Regulations.

**3.4 Deadlines:** All submissions must be completed by the specified deadline (Section 10 of this regulation).

**3.5 Information Provided:** All required information, such as project details, company details, and nominators' information, must be properly filled out. Incomplete submissions will not be considered.

**3.6 Authenticity:** All information provided must be truthful and verifiable. Misrepresentation may result in disqualification.

**3.7 Disclosure Authorisation:** By submitting their projects, companies acknowledge and agree that all provided information, including project descriptions, company names, and photos, may be used by the GRI Awards for promotional purposes, including but not limited to marketing materials, publications, and event presentations.

**3.8 Cancellation of Award Categories:** If a category does not receive at least three eligible project submissions by the final submission deadline, that category will be automatically removed from the awards program. In such cases, companies that submitted projects in the affected category will be notified and can choose one of the following options: (i) transfer their submission to another eligible category, provided the project meets the



new criteria, or (ii) receive a full refund of the submission fee. This refund exception applies only to this specific scenario.

#### 4. AWARDS STRUCTURE

The winners will be determined in the following way:

**4.1** Project submissions will be received through the official awards website ([griinstitute.org/awardseurope](https://griinstitute.org/awardseurope))

**4.2** A judging panel composed of professionals from the real estate sector, academics, and representatives from associations and unions (who do not have any competing projects) will evaluate the submissions.

- *Evaluation judging members agree to refrain from voting in any category in which they or their organizations are nominated, to avoid any conflict of interest.*

**4.3** Up to 10 projects per category will move forward for a final vote composed of:

- The judging panel
- Public voting

**4.4** The winners will be decided based on the combined average score from the judging panel and the public vote.

The weight of the public vote will be equivalent to a single judge's vote on the panel. In the case of a technical tie, GRI Institute reserves the right to cast the deciding vote.

#### 5. CATEGORIES

The GRI Awards Europe 2026 will include the following categories, with the following considerations:

- **Architectural Highlight of the Year:** Celebrates architectural excellence and creativity in real estate project design.
- **Build-to-Rent (BTR) Project of the Year:** For developers delivering top-quality residential-for-rent properties across economy, mid-range, or luxury markets.



- **Corporate Project of the Year:** Highlights office or corporate real estate projects that exemplify innovation, sustainability, and design.
- **Fundraising of the Year:** Celebrates the most notable fundraising initiative supporting real estate developments or transactions.
- **Hospitality Project of the Year:** Celebrates the best in hotel or hospitality projects, whether greenfield or redevelopment, with a minimum of 40 rooms.
- **Industrial & Logistics Project of the Year:** Recognises excellence in logistics and/or industrial real estate projects, including warehouses, logistics parks, or Built-to-Suit (BTS) facilities.
- **Institutional Investor of the Year:** Recognises the real estate investor that has demonstrated exceptional performance, strategic capital allocation, and a consistent track record of high-value acquisitions or portfolio growth within the region.
- **Proptech of the Year:** Honours proptech companies offering innovative solutions across the real estate value chain.
- **Real Estate Destination of the Year:** Recognises cities or municipalities offering the most attractive investment environment and positive local impact.
- **Residential Project of the Year:** Recognises excellence in the development of residential properties, including high-rise buildings, multifamily complexes, or master-planned communities.
- **Retail Project of the Year:** Recognises delivery or expansion of shopping centres, retail parks, outlets, or strip malls with a minimum GLA of 5,000 square meters.
- **Redevelopment Project of the Year:** For impactful redevelopment or repurposing of existing real estate assets.
- **Social Impact Project of the Year:** Recognises companies with outstanding volunteerism, philanthropy, or social responsibility initiatives in the real estate sector.
- **Sustainability Highlight of the Year:** Rewards projects that demonstrate outstanding ESG performance, innovation, and sustainable practices.
- **Transaction of the Year:** Awards outstanding real estate transactions, based on volume, complexity, and market impact. Only transactions involving asset purchase/sale are eligible. Transactions must have a financial volume equal to or greater than EUR 50 million to qualify.
- **Urban Regeneration Project of the Year:** Recognises large-scale projects or master-planned communities that revitalise underutilised urban areas, demonstrating a positive economic and social impact through the integration of multiple uses and public-private collaboration



## 6. HOMAGE CATEGORIES

The Homage Categories of the GRI Awards Europe 2026 are special recognitions that honour outstanding leaders whose work has made a meaningful and lasting contribution to the real estate industry. Unlike the competitive award categories, the Homage Categories are not open for public submissions and do not involve voting.

- **Person of the Year:** It is a tribute awarded by GRI Institute to a distinguished leader previously selected by the regional real estate industry.
- **Inspiring Female Leader of the Year:** It is a tribute awarded by the GRI Institute to a distinguished female leader whose dedication and advocacy have significantly contributed to the empowerment and visibility of women in the sector.

## 7. JUDGING PANEL & EVALUATION CRITERIA

**7.1. Composition and Independence** The Judging Panel shall be composed of a multidisciplinary group of market leaders, academics, and representatives from key industry associations. To ensure the highest level of integrity, the selection process for judges follows strict criteria of reputation and technical expertise. No panel member may evaluate a category where their own company, or a direct affiliate, has a project nominated.

**7.2. Code of Ethics and Conflict of Interest** Members of the Judging Panel undertake to maintain absolute confidentiality and impartiality.

**Mandatory Abstention:** Judges must abstain from voting in any category where a direct or indirect conflict of interest is identified.

**Self-Declaration:** It is the sole responsibility of the judge to notify the Organizing Committee of any professional or personal ties to a nominee that could compromise the neutrality of the award.

**Audit:** The Organizing Committee reserves the right to annul any score that shows clear signs of bias or undisclosed conflict of interest.



**7.3. Technical Evaluation Criteria** Each project will be scored on a scale of 1 to 10 for each of the following pillars:

- **Clarity and Quality of Submission:** Consistency of the data provided, quality of the supporting materials (photos/videos), and the ability to demonstrate the project's journey from conception to execution.
- **Innovation and Market Impact:** The degree of originality, use of new technologies, or pioneering business models that set a new benchmark for the European Real Estate sector.
- **Relevance and Contribution to the Sector:** How the project addresses current market needs, its scale of impact, and its role in enhancing the local urban or economic landscape.
- **ESG & Sustainability Integration (when applicable):** Concrete evidence of environmental stewardship, social responsibility, and governance practices.

## **8. FINALISTS AND WINNERS**

**8.1 Top 10 Finalists:** Up to 10 projects with the highest scores in the preliminary evaluation phase will be shortlisted for the final stage of each category of the GRI Awards Europe 2026.

In the event of a tie for tenth place, all projects that have obtained the same score as the tenth-placed project will also be qualified for the final stage, exceptionally increasing the number of finalists in that category.

All finalists will also receive an official digital GRI Awards seal, which may be displayed on their websites, social media pages, marketing materials, and corporate communications. This seal is designed to support public recognition of their achievement.

**8.2 Top 3 Finalists:** From the Top 10, the 3 highest-rated will be disclosed as the top 3, and winners will be announced during the award ceremony in Paris.

**8.3. Global Recognition (GRI Global Awards):** The projects selected as the Top 3 finalists in each category will have their projects automatically submitted for the **GRI Global Awards 2026**, which will take place on **November 4th in Abu Dhabi**. This automatic submission provides our regional finalists with a global platform to showcase their excellence and compete against the most outstanding projects from around the world.



## **9. AWARDS CEREMONY AND FINALIST PARTICIPATION**

### **9.1 Invitation to the Ceremony**

Companies selected as finalists (Top 3) will be announced during the award ceremony in Paris. Participation in the GRI Awards Dinner Event is strongly encouraged and required to receive the physical award recognition, subject to exceptional circumstances approved by GRI Institute

### **9.2 Table Purchase for Finalists**

Finalists who wish to celebrate with their teams and guests at the event may choose to purchase seating options.

- Half-table (4 seats): Available for EUR 3,000 (three thousand Euros).
- Full table (8 seats): Available for EUR 5,500 (five thousand and five hundred Euros).

### **9.3 Extension for Sponsors**

Official event sponsors have the option to purchase Extension Tables for extra guests, subject to venue capacity and availability.

## **10. AWARDS TIMELINE**

- Project submissions: until May 8th
- Evaluation of submitted projects by Judging Panel: May 11th -> May 15th
- Disclosure of the Top 10 Finalists: May 18th
- Public voting: May 18th -> June 26th
- Disclosure of the Top 3 Finalists: June 29th
- Awards ceremony: September 9th

## **11. FINAL CONSIDERATIONS**

The GRI Institute reserves the right to update this regulation at any time to ensure the best execution of the GRI Awards. All participants agree to these terms upon registration.

For questions or further information, please contact: [awards@griinstitute.org](mailto:awards@griinstitute.org)