

Prize contest fiche (Call fiche): European Prize for Innovation in Public Administration

The public sector accounts for half of GDP in the EU¹. Therefore, in order to excel and stay competitive, Europe needs to mobilise innovation and modernisation in its public administrations. Awards have a strong potential to drive innovation through the public recognition of achievements and the provision of role models.

The Commission plans to award prizes to successful, already running, and innovative public initiatives. The initiatives, managed by the national, regional or local public administrations, will have made significant improvements in citizens' lives. With this Prize the Commission wants to reward excellence and innovation in strategies, services, networks, processes and infrastructure. All public administrations from EU Member States or Associated Countries of the Research Framework Programme are invited to submit their innovative initiatives or programmes.

The awarded money will be used by the winning public administration to scale up and expand their initiative thereby leveraging and inducing further excellence and innovation in public administration. The Commission will remain in close contact with the winners and ensure follow-up for the implementation of the subsequent stages of their initiatives.

Implementation and management:

The Commission wants to recognise the outstanding achievements of public administrations in the following three categories:

1. Initiatives for **citizens**
(e.g. special assistance for the elderly; eco-friendly public transport; participatory budgeting)²
2. Initiatives for **firms**
(e.g. providing networking platforms for start-ups; supporting rural entrepreneurs with e-trade tools)³
3. Initiatives for **education and research**
(e.g. new approaches to vocational training; fostering a better learning environment for primary schools; facilitating entrepreneurship of researchers⁴)

The High Level Jury evaluating submissions will consist of a group of independent experts from public administration, business and academia appointed by the Commission. The High Level Jury will submit to the Commission a shortlist of up to six initiatives in each category. In each of the three categories, monetary prizes of EUR 0.1 million will be awarded to each of the three best initiatives.

The Commission will manage the award. An information campaign will be launched to encourage contestants to apply.

¹ Total general government expenditure in EU27 was 50.6% of GDP in 2010 (Source: Eurostat).

² The examples given are by no means to be regarded as complete or exhaustive.

³ Ibid.

⁴ Ibid.

Funding scheme: Prizes⁵, (9 prizes)

Coordination and Support Action (supporting action), prizes - EUR 0.90 million⁶

Date of publication⁷: 10 July 2012

Opening of the submission phase: 17 September 2012, at 12:00:00 Brussels local time

Deadline to submit applications⁸: 15 February 2013, at 17:00:00 Brussels local time

Eligibility criteria:

Contestants for the "**European Prize for Innovation in Public Administration**" shall comply with the following **eligibility criteria** to participate:

1. The candidate must be an established public administration at the national, regional or local level in an EU Member State or in Associated Countries of the Research Framework Programme⁹.
2. The candidates' submission will consist of a complete application for the "European Prize for Innovation in Public Administrations".
3. The on-going initiative or programme has been running for at least 1 year but not longer than 4 years at the time of submission.
4. The initiative or programme is owned by the contestant (idea, planning, design, launch, administration etc.).
5. The initiative or programme cannot have already been awarded a monetary prize by an EU Institution

Award criteria:

⁵ In accordance with Article 30 of Regulation (EC) No 1906/2006 of 18 December 2006 laying down the rules for the participation of undertakings, research centres and universities in actions under the Seventh Framework programme and for the dissemination of research results (2007-2013).

⁶ Under the condition that the draft budget for 2013 is adopted without modification by the budgetary authority.

⁷ The Director-General responsible for the contest may publish it up to one month prior or after the envisaged date of publication.

⁸ The Director-General responsible may delay this deadline up to two months.

⁹ Associated Countries are: Israel, Switzerland, Norway, Iceland, Liechtenstein, Turkey, Croatia, the Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Serbia, Albania, Montenegro, Bosnia & Herzegovina, Faroe Islands and the Republic of Moldova.

The winners of the "**European Prize for Innovation in Public Administration**" will be selected according to the following award criteria, which will be assessed by a High Level Jury:

1. The **social relevance** for the community concerned
In line with the Europe 2020 strategy goals, initiatives will be assessed on their potential to address grand societal challenges (e.g. the ageing of Europe, climate change, clean water, renewable energy and resource efficiency).
Importance will also be given to the level of citizen engagement and satisfaction as well as the involvement of direct users in the design and operation of the initiative.
2. The **originality and replicability**
Initiatives must be highly innovative and will be judged on the level of quality of implementation and potential for being replicated in other European contexts.
3. The **economic relevance** for the community concerned.
Important aspects to be considered will be, for example: increased efficiency in resource allocation; more effective use of personnel, ICT platforms or green technology; increased cost efficiency; improved attractiveness for investors; better service delivery.
4. The **planned use of the prize money**
Plans to use the prize money to scale-up or expand the initiative will be judged based on their ambition and feasibility, on the expected impact and benefits for citizens and on their potential to attract further financial or technical support from other sources for their realisation.

Candidates can at any time be required to submit official proof to support claims made under any of the above award criteria.

Expected impact:

By awarding the "European Prize for Innovation in Public Administration" the Commission will showcase innovations in the public administration and give visibility to the most dynamic, forward-looking and innovative public administrations and their initiatives. The winners' innovative initiatives will have a strong potential for replicability and scaling up and should be used as role models for other public administrations in Europe. Furthermore, the awards aim to challenge persistent negative stereotypes and also to increase citizens' expectation for excellence in public administration in Europe.

- 2.1 A group of independent experts (in the form of a High Level Jury) will be in charge of assessing the quality of the applications for the "European Prize for Innovation in Public Administrations" in accordance with the contest rules.

Coordination and Support Action (supporting action), expert contracts- EUR 0.03 million¹⁰

¹⁰ Under the condition that the draft budget for 2013 is adopted without modification by the budgetary authority.