



Terms & Conditions

The Innovation in Politics Awards



TERMS AND CONDITIONS

Innovation in Politics Awards

These Terms and Conditions apply to entries submitted for The Innovation in Politics Awards (“the Awards”), operating on the website www.innovationinpolitics.eu (“the Awards website”), as well as applications for participation in the Awards jury. By submitting an entry or applying to become a juror, users agree to be bound by these Terms & Conditions. Any supplementary or divergent agreements must be made in writing.

1. The Innovation in Politics Awards

- a. The annual Innovation in Politics Awards have been created to recognise creative, courageous politicians and their innovative projects in the [member countries of the Council of Europe](#).
- b. The Awards were presented for the first time in 2017. They are presented by The Innovation in Politics Institute, a private, non-partisan organization headquartered in Vienna, Austria, and supported by a Europe-wide group of concerned citizens from a broad political spectrum.
- c. For the second year of operation, local offices have been established in several European countries: Austria, the Benelux States, Bulgaria, Finland, France, Germany, Greece, Ireland, Italy, Lithuania, Poland, Sweden, Switzerland and the United Kingdom. They provide information and support in their respective local languages.
- d. Citizens of and politicians from all other Council of Europe (CoE) member countries are invited to participate as well.

2. Award Categories

The Innovation in Politics Awards are presented in nine categories:

- Quality of life (health care, social security, housing, mobility)
- Prosperity (business environment, technology, finance)
- Jobs (labor market)
- Ecology (farming, environment, energy)
- Civilisation (education, arts, science, European society)
- Democracy (participation, transparency, self-determination)
- Human rights (equality, women’s affairs, minority rights)
- Community (empowerment, civic involvement)



3. Formal project criteria

All participating projects must meet the following formal criteria:

- a. **COUNCIL OF EUROPE COUNTRY.** Projects are accepted only from member countries of the Council of Europe (CoE).
- b. **POLITICIAN(S) INVOLVED.** A politician or a group of politicians must have played a key role in making the project possible. This includes elected and appointed representatives at all levels of government in all co-member countries who were active at the time the project started.
- c. **TAXPAYER'S MONEY:** The project must have been financed, at least partially, with public funds (money or other resources).
- d. **IMPACT:** Each project must have had a tangible and material impact on the lives of citizens. Communication campaigns, events, scientific studies and analyses, as well as projects at the planning stage, are not admissible.
- e. **HUMAN RIGHTS:** Projects that diminish the values expressed in the [Universal Declaration of Human Rights](#) in any way will be excluded.

4. Nomination of projects

- a. Anyone, whether personally involved or not, can nominate a project that meets the above formal criteria, either through the Awards website (www.innovationinpolitics.eu) or by e-mail to awards@innovationinpolitics.eu.
- b. Politicians may nominate their own projects.
- c. The following basic information is required for the nomination:
 - Nominating person (name, e-mail, other contact details)
 - Nominated project (country, project title, brief description, launch date, project website)
 - Responsible politician (if known)
- d. Upon receiving the nomination, the Awards organisers will invite the responsible politician ("project owner") to submit the project for the Awards competition.
- e. You can find the current deadlines for the Awards here:
<https://innovationinpolitics.eu/en/introduction>

5. Submission of projects

- a. A project can only be formally submitted by the "project owner" (see also section 3.2).
- b. If a group of politicians was responsible for the project, they must name one person who will function as the "project owner" for the purpose of these Awards.
- c. There is no fee for entering submissions.
- d. Each politician may submit max. three projects per year.



- e. The online form on the Awards website is available in English only, but project submissions are accepted in all European languages. Local country offices should be contacted for support in a local language.
- f. Submissions must contain the following information:
- Project owner's name, political office, contact details
 - Country (region, city)
 - Contact person for queries (if other than the submitter)
 - Title of project
 - Brief description
 - Compliance with formal Awards criteria
 - Description of how the project meets the substantial criteria
 - Category in which the project is to be entered (and an optional second category)
 - Supplementary information (optional, in English only)
 - Infographics
 - Video (one only, max. two minutes)
 - Audio (one only, max. ten minutes)
 - Photos (max. three)
 - A link to a website and/or social media site (if no registration required)
- g. If necessary information is missing, the project owner will be contacted and asked to provide it.
- h. The international jury receives all submissions in English.
- i. Submissions in other languages are translated into English (free of charge for the submitter).
- j. Submissions in English and approved English translations of submissions are put before an expert group to be checked against the formal project criteria (see section 3). The expert group may ask submitters for additional information, and may decide to exclude projects which do not meet one or more of the formal criteria. In such cases, the submitter will be notified of the exclusion of the project. The expert group' decision is final.
- k. The expert group may also conclude that a project belongs in a different category from the one it was entered in. In this case, the submitter will be contacted. If no agreement can be reached on the category, the expert group's decision will be final. The submitter retains the right to withdraw the entry.
- l. You can find the most current deadlines for the Awards here:
<https://innovationinpolitics.eu/en/introduction>

6. Substantial criteria

- a. To be considered for an award, a project must show, first and foremost, an innovative character, breaking new ground while meeting a challenge in its sphere of influence (municipality, region, country).
- b. The innovation does not have to be a "world first". What counts is a new approach in the country or region where the project was realised, and skilful adaptation to the local culture



and needs.

- c. To offer fair conditions to all participants, the innovative quality of each project is assessed against the standards of the country or region in which it was realised.
- d. In addition to innovation, a project is evaluated according to the following three criteria:

Building trust. Projects score additional points if they strengthen trust in democratic processes and institutions.

Participation. Projects score additional points if they motivate citizens to participate in an extensive or special way, if they bring people together from different parts of society or with different political views.

Sustainability. Projects score additional points if they create lasting improvements in the lives of all those affected, and produce high output in relation to the financial input.

For scoring purposes, innovation is valued at 40% of the total. The other three criteria count for 20 % each.

7. Jury selection

- a. All residents of CoE member countries who have reached the legal age applicable in their own country are eligible to apply for jury membership by entering the following information in the online form provided on the Awards website:
 - Full name
 - Validated e-mail address
 - Year and month of birth
- b. Applicants will be notified by e-mail when their application is received.
- c. Evaluation of all projects by the jury takes place in English (original submissions or translated versions, see section 5.7). Jurors therefore require advanced reading skills in English.
- d. After the deadline for applications, 1,000 jurors will be selected by the Awards office. The selection should reflect the diversity of the European population.
- e. The selected jurors receive an e-mail confirming their successful application and providing basic information about the timeline, the project evaluation process and their duties as jurors.
- f. You can find the current deadlines for the Awards (and becoming a juror) here:
<https://innovationinpolitics.eu/en/introduction>

8. Project evaluation process

- a. The jury evaluates all projects online using a secure voting platform.
- b. For this purpose, an online account is created by the Awards office for each juror.
- c. Jurors are provided with access codes and instructions for the use of the account.



- d. When they log in for the first time, each jury member will be informed of the basic rules and criteria, and must accept those terms before proceeding.
- e. Each juror is assigned (at random) 15 projects to evaluate. This does not include projects from the jurors' own countries.
- f. Jurors evaluate each project separately according to the evaluation criteria outlined in section 6, using a scale of 0 to 9 points for each criterion.
- g. When the evaluation of a project is completed, the juror is prompted to submit the result, which cannot be changed after submission.
- h. After all scores have been received, they are tallied up and the winners and finalists are determined using an automated electronic system.
- i. All jurors will take part in a raffle.

9. Finalists and winners, prizes and Awards ceremony

- a. In each category, the ten top-rated projects (or fewer if there are not enough eligible entries in a particular category) automatically become finalists. Their names will be published on the Awards website.
- b. The top-rated project automatically becomes the category winner. In case of a tie, there will be two or more winners.
- c. All finalists are invited to attend the Awards presentation ceremony. Attendance at the event is free of charge for finalists. Finalists are expected to cover their own travel and accommodation expenses.
- d. The names of the eight category winners will be kept secret, including from the finalists, until the Awards ceremony.
- e. All finalists are honoured at the Awards ceremony. The category winners receive a trophy, and their projects are publicised, as well as being presented on the Awards website.
- f. Finalists automatically become members of The Innovation in Politics Network, a Europe-wide network of political innovators which will grow year-on-year, and will organise get-togethers in various locations across Europe.

10. Responsibility for submitted materials

- a. Any person submitting an entry for The Innovation in Politics Awards is responsible for the legality and copyright status of the submitted materials.
- b. By entering a project, the submitter confirms that:
 - he or she is the "project owner" as defined in section 3.2



- he or she has obtained the consent of any “project co-owners” (e.g. public officials, political or administrative entities involved, commercial partners and sponsors, etc.) and any other rights holders
- all the information provided in the entry is accurate and truthful to the submitter’s best knowledge
- c. Submitters may not provide any materials which are confidential, defamatory, obscene or in violation of personal privacy regulations, which infringe copyrights and intellectual property rights, and which are proprietary to or violate the legal rights of any third party.
- d. By entering a project, the submitter confirms that he or she has the rights to distribute all the materials used, including photos, audio and video material and artwork, and to indemnify and hold the organisers of The Innovation in Politics Awards harmless if such materials are found to infringe the rights of any third parties.
- e. The Awards organisers reserve the right to delete any offending materials and to remove any entries found to be fraudulent or grossly inaccurate from the competition.
- f. If at a later date a submission is found to contain grossly inaccurate or misleading information, or to infringe upon the legal rights of third parties, the organisers reserve the right to revoke any distinction conferred on the project, and to inform the public of the withdrawal.
- g. By entering a project, the submitter grants permission to The Innovation in Politics Awards organisers, sponsors and any members of the media to use, for non-
- h. commercial purposes, his or her name, image and all the materials submitted in organising and marketing the Awards. Examples of such usage include, without limitation, articles in print media, websites, social media posts and blogs, printed materials, posters and on-screen visuals at Awards ceremonies, videos and photos displaying winners, etc.

11. Liabilities

- a. As the Awards organisers and the jurors cannot independently verify the information contained in project submissions, it is the sole responsibility of submitters to provide accurate information. The Innovation in Politics Institute therefore accepts no liability for inaccurate information contained in project submissions.
- b. As the organiser of The Innovation in Politics Awards, The Innovation in Politics Institute will make all reasonable efforts to offer submitters, jurors and other users a properly functioning Awards website and secure and reliable processing of submissions, jury membership applications and the project evaluation procedure. However, the Institute offers no warranty and shall accept no liability for the functioning and the technical integrity of the Awards website or any of the processes mentioned above.
- c. The organisers will take reasonable precautions to safeguard the security of the Awards website, but cannot guarantee that unauthorised third parties will not be able to breach such security measures. Users are requested to immediately notify the organisers of any such attacks or unauthorised use of their account.



d. To the maximum extent permitted by law, The Innovation in Politics Institute will not be liable for any indirect, incidental, special, consequential or punitive damages, or any loss of profits or revenues, whether incurred directly or indirectly, or any loss of data, use, goodwill, or other intangible losses, resulting from:

- access to, use of or inability to access The Innovation in Politics Awards website, or to reach any of the Awards offices
- detrimental conduct of any third party, including, without limitation, defamatory, offensive or illegal conduct of third parties including jurors or other unpaid volunteers assisting the organisers
- unauthorised access, use or alteration of transmitted content or materials

12. Data protection

- a. The Awards organisers will keep all personal data submitted with project entries, jury applications and other communications confidential and will not share such information with any third parties.
- b. Personal data will be stored in secure databases, in accordance with Austrian/EU data protection regulations, and will only be used in connection with The Innovation in Politics Awards and related activities.
- c. If any communication beyond the Awards is ever envisaged, the organisers will contact each individual concerned to obtain their permission.

13. Final provisions

- a. These Terms and Conditions may be revised from time to time, as the need arises.
- b. The Awards website will always provide the latest version. If a revision is material, users deemed to be affected by the changes (at the organisers' sole discretion) will be notified.
- c. These Terms and Conditions, including any future amendments, are binding for all interactions between The Innovation in Politics Institute and nominators, submitters, jurors, applicants for the jury and all other users of the Awards website. Any supplementary or divergent agreements must be made in writing.
- d. All decisions of the Awards jury will be final and no discussion of or correspondence on such decisions will be entered into.
- e. These Terms and Conditions are subject to Austrian law, and the parties agree to submit to the exclusive jurisdiction of the Austrian courts.
- f. If any provision of these Terms and Conditions is deemed to be invalid, the provision in question will be limited, amended or removed to the minimum extent necessary, and the remaining provisions will remain in full force and effect.