

UNDER THE AUSPICES OF THE SECRETARY GENERAL OF THE COUNCIL OF EUROPE,  
MS MARIJA PEJČINOVIĆ BURIĆ, AND THE PATRONAGE OF MS DUBRAVKA ŠUICA,  
VICE-PRESIDENT FOR DEMOCRACY AND DEMOGRAPHY OF THE EUROPEAN COMMISSION.

## THE INNOVATION IN POLITICS AWARDS 2021

# A PAN-EUROPEAN EVENT SERIES



**December 2021 – February 2022:** We will celebrate this year's Innovation in Politics Awards with nine events in nine cities: one event for each category. Europe's most courageous and creative politicians will come together for a lively exchange about what makes political work for citizens more successful. The finalists have been selected by a jury of over 1,000 European citizens out of more than 400 submissions.

### AFTERNOON EXCHANGE CONFERENCE **POLITICS, COFFEE & CAKE**

A lively round table format for direct dialogue and discussion with project owners from all over Europe will be held in the afternoon. 80 political professionals, media representatives and experts in the field of the respective Awards category will participate to learn more about the best projects in the nine awards categories: Community, Democracy, Digitalisation, Ecology, Economy, Education, Human Rights, Quality of Life, and COVID-19 Strategies.

### EVENING EVENT **INNOVATION IN POLITICS AWARDS CEREMONY**

We honour the finalists and winner of each Awards category with a festive ceremony, featuring entertainment and culinary delights, providing ample opportunity for networking across borders and party lines. 80 guests include politicians from all levels of the democratic spectrum across Europe, and leading representatives of society, business, arts & culture, and the media.

# 9 CATEGORIES – 9 CITIES – 90 FINALISTS – 9 WINNERS

## THE INNOVATION IN POLITICS AWARDS 2021

### A PAN-EUROPEAN EVENT SERIES IN 9 CITIES

**Under the auspices of the Secretary General of the Council of Europe, Ms Marija Pejčinović Burić, and under the patronage of Ms Dubravka Šuica, Vice-President for Democracy and Demography of the European Commission.**

This year, for the fifth time, politicians from across Europe will be recognised for their creative and courageous political projects that improve our lives as citizens. The Awards are presented regardless of party affiliation and political level, based on our European values of social balance, democracy, and human rights.

A jury of 1,032 European citizens evaluated 413 political projects, selecting 90 finalists and nine winners in nine categories. At each of our nine events, we will honour their achievements so they will serve as an inspiration for others.

#### DEMOCRACY

**Brussels | 1 December 2021**

with H. E. Dubravka Šuica,  
Vice-President for  
Democracy and Economy of  
the European Commission

#### ECONOMY

**Stockholm | 14 December 2021**

with Allan Larsson, former  
Finance Minister of Sweden

#### EDUCATION

**Vienna | 13 January 2022**

with H. E. Alexander Van der Bellen,  
Federal President  
of Austria

#### COVID-19 STRATEGIES

**Warsaw | 14 January 2022**

with Prof. Jerzy Buzek, MEP,  
former Prime Minister of Poland and  
former President of the  
European Parliament

#### ECOLOGY

**Paris | 17 January 2022**

with Jean-François Rapin,  
President of the Committee of  
European Affairs

#### HUMAN RIGHTS

**Strasbourg | 18 January 2022**

with H. E. Marija Pejčinović  
Burić, Secretary General of the  
Council of Europe

#### COMMUNITY

**Berlin | 20 January 2022**

with Prof. Jutta Allmendinger,  
President of the WZB Berlin  
Social Science Center

#### DIGITALISATION

**Bratislava | 27 January 2022**

with H. E. Eduard Heger,  
Prime Minister of Slovakia

#### QUALITY OF LIFE

**Rome | February 2022**

with Antonio Rosati,  
CEO of EUR S.p.A.

By personal invitation only.

Please click here to register: [innovationinpolitics.eu/awards/9cities](https://innovationinpolitics.eu/awards/9cities).

In case of questions please contact us at [welcome@innovationinpolitics.eu](mailto:welcome@innovationinpolitics.eu) or  
+43 660 6543027

To ensure the safety and comfort of all attendees, please be ready to show proof of your full vaccination status or recovery from Covid-19. Should additional measures be mandated by local authorities at the time of the events, we will let you know. We are grateful for your cooperation..

AFTERNOON CONFERENCE | 2 PM – 5 PM

## POLITICS, COFFEE & CAKE

THE FINALISTS OF THE INNOVATION IN POLITICS AWARDS 2021 SHARE INSIGHTS INTO THEIR WORK

At the conference Politics, Coffee & Cake, politicians and project owners shortlisted for an Innovation in Politics Award 2021 present their creative and courageous political projects to peers, entrepreneurs, young people, and journalists. The conference format of round-table discussions is organised around the nine awards categories: Community, Democracy, Digitalisation, Ecology, Economy, Education, Human Rights, Quality of Life, and COVID-19 Strategies. It guarantees a direct and highly informative dialogue for all.



EVENING CEREMONY | 7 PM

## INNOVATION IN POLITICS AWARDS CEREMONY

A CELEBRATION OF GROUNDBREAKING POLITICAL WORK IN EUROPE

Politicians, civil society representatives, journalists, and citizens honour the winner and finalists of the respective category of The Innovation in Politics Awards 2021 in a festive ceremony.





# THE INNOVATION IN POLITICS AWARDS

## VOICES

**The Innovation in Politics Awards are continuously growing in relevance and reach.** More and more influential personalities are joining us in our mission to strengthen and improve democracy in Europe. This is what they have to say.



**Jean-Claude Juncker,**  
Former President of the European Commission and Winner of The Innovation in Politics Awards 2018, category "Civilisation"

*"Innovation is not only a concern of the economy but also of those who are active in politics. This award is showing that we are not alone and that this concern is shared by many."*



**Beata Klimek,**  
Mayor of Ostrow Wielkopolski, Poland, and Finalist of The Innovation in Politics Awards 2017, category "Quality of Life"

*"We don't have all the answers for all the questions, but we should ask the questions to find the way. And this is the great responsibility, not only for the city but for the inhabitants, too."*

**Jean Arthuis,**  
Member of the European Parliament and Winner of the Innovation in Politics Awards 2017, category "Jobs"



*"I do this work, because I desire to change the world, to contribute to welfare, to preserve liberty and democracy."*

**Eamon Gilmore,**  
Former Deputy Prime Minister of Ireland and Finalist of The Innovation in Politics Awards 2017, category "Human Rights"



*"Most people in politics try to do the right thing – but there are occasions when doing the right thing is not always the popular thing."*



**Veronica Andersson,** Former President of the Children and Youth Committee in the Municipality of Nyköping, Sweden and Winner of the Innovation in Politics Awards 2017, category "Civilisation"

*"Be strong, believe in yourself and have someone close to you whom you can trust. You have an obligation to do the right thing for the kids' education. If you want to be in politics, you must accept that you have to make decisions, otherwise you should not be in politics."*

**Axelle Lemaire,**  
Former Minister for Digital Affairs, France and Winner of The Innovation in Politics Awards 2017, category "Democracy"



*"There are always good reasons not to go ahead. So the capacity to stick to the very initial reasons why politicians chose to enter politics in the first place I think is key."*

**Matthias Strolz,**  
Founder and former Chairman of NEOS, Austria



*"I would love to see politicians with an open heart, open mind, open will, and open to what comes their way. They should understand themselves as gardeners, they cultivate social fields."*

## ABOUT THE INNOVATION IN POLITICS AWARDS

Since 2017, politicians from across the democratic party spectrum from all over Europe have submitted political projects in nine categories to the annual Innovation in Politics Awards, which have been implemented locally, regionally and nationally. A pan-European jury of more than 1,000 Europeans evaluates the projects and selects 90 finalists and 9 award winners.

### The nine categories are:

#### 1. Community

*Empowerment, Civic Engagement,  
Social Cohesion*

#### 2. Democracy

*Participation, Transparency, Self-Determination*

#### 3. Digitalisation

*E-Government, Information Technology,  
Social Media*

#### 4. Ecology

*Climate, Environmental Protection, Sustainability*

#### 5. Economy

*Entrepreneurship, Labour Market, Finance*

#### 6. Education

*Learning, Teaching, Empowerment*

#### 7. Human Rights

*Fundamental Rights and Freedoms*

#### 8. Quality of Life

*Social Security, Wellbeing, Culture*

#### 9. COVID-19 Strategies

*Recovery, Resilience, Crisis Management*

## ABOUT THE INNOVATION IN POLITICS INSTITUTE

The Innovation in Politics Institute is a mission-driven company. We identify, develop and apply innovations in politics – to strengthen democracy in Europe and beyond.

Our mission is to recognise and support those political professionals who have the courage to break new ground, are creative and achieve better results – across party lines and across borders – to make democratic politics more successful. To that end, we co-create long-term programmes with a positive impact on politics and society, like awards for state-of-the-art political work, training and networking opportunities for political professionals, and platforms for democratic practice exchange.

We have offices in Vienna and Berlin and representations in Belgium, Bulgaria, Estonia, Finland, France, Greece, Ireland, Italy, Latvia, Lithuania, Poland, Slovakia, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland and the United Kingdom.

More information:

[www.innovationinpolitics.eu](http://www.innovationinpolitics.eu)

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### OUR OFFICE NETWORK

