



Terms & Conditions

The Innovation in Politics Awards



TERMS AND CONDITIONS

The Innovation in Politics Awards

These Terms and Conditions apply to entries submitted for The Innovation in Politics Awards (“the Awards”), operating on the website <https://awards.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 Innovation in Politics Awards (IPA), established in 2017 by The Innovation in Politics Institute (IPI), are now operated by the ECoD gemeinnützige GmbH (ECoD NPO). The Awards Conference & Gala are an official event of the ECoD Democracy Year, hosted annually in the designated European Capital of Democracy.
- c. This integration builds on the shared mission of the Awards and ECoD to strengthen democracy in Europe, while maintaining a close partnership with The Innovation in Politics Institute, the founding organisation behind both initiatives.
- 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:

- Democracy
- Climate Protection
- Circular Economy
- Democracy Technologies
- Social Cohesion & Integration
- Local Development
- Education
- Public Health & Ageing Society
- Addressing Disinformation

Categories may change each year to reflect evolving challenges and trends.



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 or persons that diminish the values expressed in the [Universal Declaration of Human Rights](#) in any way will be excluded.
- f. **INNOVATION:** Projects need to apply an innovative approach to the issues addressed, innovative as creative or new for the respective region in which it applies.

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 (<https://awards.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, project picture)
 - 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.

5. Submission of projects

- a. A project can only be formally submitted by a "project owner" (see also section 3.2) or someone with authorization from a project owner.
- b. If a group of politicians was responsible for the project, they must name one person who will function as the main contact 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 and project submissions must be in English. If this is not possible, please contact us and we will assist with translation.
- 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)
 - Copyrights (if necessary)
 - 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 English and approved English translations of submissions will be checked against the formal project criteria (see section 3). The Innovation in Politics Team 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.
- j. The Innovation in Politics Team 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 of a change in category assignment. The submitter retains the right to withdraw the entry.

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 two criteria:



Innovation. Projects score additional points if they are done in a new or special way, relating to the respective region in which the project is being implemented.

Impact. Projects score additional points if they create lasting improvements in the lives of all those affected, and produce high output.

For scoring purposes, these criteria are valued at 50% of the total.

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.

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 Conference & Gala

- 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 Innovation in Politics Awards Conference & Gala. 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 seven category winners will be kept secret, including from the finalists, until the Awards Gala.
- e. All finalists are honoured at the Awards Gala. The category winners receive a trophy, and their projects are published, 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 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-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. ECoD NPO therefore accepts no liability for inaccurate information contained in project submissions.
- b. As the organiser of The Innovation in Politics Awards, ECoD NPO 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, ECoD NPO 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, ECoD NPO 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. ECoD NPO 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 the EU General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR) and the Austrian Data Protection Act (DSG), and will only be used in connection with The Innovation in Politics Awards and related activities of ECoD NPO.
- c. If any other communication is ever envisaged, the organisers will contact each individual concerned to obtain their permission.
- d. Social Plugins (Facebook, Twitter, Google+)
The website uses so-called “social plugins”. Currently these are the plugins of the services Facebook, Twitter, Google+ and WhatsApp. Through these plugins, data, including personal information, may be sent to the US service providers and may be used by them. These companies can be contacted as follows:

Facebook Inc., 1601 S. California Ave – Palo Alto – CA 94304, USA

Twitter Inc., 1355 Market St #900, San Francisco, CA 94103, USA

Google Inc., 1600 Amphitheatre Pkwy, Mountain View, CA 94043, USA

e. Contact Information

We welcome any feedback concerning this Privacy Policy. If you have questions and suggestions, please contact office@innovationinpolitics.eu, we will contact you as soon as possible. Address and telephone number for written or personal contact can be found in the imprint of the website (<https://innovationinpolitics.eu/imprint/>).

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 ECoD NPO 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.