



European
Commission

EUROPEAN CAPITAL OF INNOVATION

A place to bring
ideas to life



WILL YOUR CITY BE THE NEXT EUROPEAN CAPITAL OF INNOVATION?

The European Commission is launching third edition of the European Capital of Innovation Award to celebrate the European city that is building the best “**innovation ecosystem**” to connect citizens, the public sector, academia, and business.

The 2017 Capital of Innovation will win **EUR 1 000 000** to scale up its innovation activities. The two runners-up in second and third place will each receive **EUR 100 000**.

Apply online via the contest website (www.ec.europa.eu/icapital) by **21 June 2017, 17:00** (Brussels time).

Research and
Innovation

WHO CAN PARTICIPATE?

The contest is open to cities that:

- > are located in an **EU Member State or in a country associated to Horizon 2020**, the EU's research and innovation programme;
- > have **over 100 000 inhabitants** - in countries where there is no city with more than 100 000 inhabitants, the largest city is eligible to apply;
- > are running **innovative initiatives** which started after 1 January 2016; and
- > did not win first prize in the previous European Capital of Innovation contests. This restriction does not apply to the runners-up of those contests.

For the purposes of this competition, a city is any urban area understood as an administrative unit governed by a city council or another form of democratically elected body. For data about the population, Eurostat will be the official source of reference.

HOW WILL THE WINNER BE SELECTED?

Applicant cities will be judged on the innovative solutions to their relevant societal challenges reported in their application. Cities will particularly have to prove how they create the local conditions to innovate by:

- > **Experimenting** – innovative concepts, processes, tools, and governance models your city is implementing as a test-bed for innovation. How is your city mainstreaming these innovative practices into its urban processes?
- > **Engaging** – how your city offers increased opportunities to citizens to innovate and ensures the uptake of their ideas.
- > **Expanding** – how is your city attracting new talents, resources, funding, investments through its innovative practices, and how this helps become a role model for other cities.
- > **Empowering** – concrete and measurable added value directly connected to the implementation of innovative practices.

An **independent panel of judges from different backgrounds** will select the winner and runners-up, who will be announced at the end of 2017.

LEARN MORE ABOUT PAST COMPETITIONS

The European Commission created the European Capital of Innovation award to acknowledge the **role of cities as places of systemic innovation**, with a capacity to connect people and places, and public and private actors. The first award was won by Barcelona in 2014, for its 'Barcelona as a people city' initiative, which made use of new technologies to bring the city closer to people, fostering economic growth and the welfare of its citizens. Amsterdam won in 2016 for creating an innovation ecosystem with four dimensions (smart, start-ups, liveability and digital social innovation) around the traditionally open approach of its citizens (*Innovation is in the city's DNA*).

MORE INFORMATION

Please read the [contest rules](#) and the [application guide](#) on the website www.ec.europa.eu/icapital.

Contact us via RTD-I-CAPITAL@ec.europa.eu
[#iCapitalAwards](https://twitter.com/iCapitalAwards)