“The Crystal Scales of Justice” Prize

The European prize for innovative practice contributing to the quality of criminal justice

2009 Edition

Rules of the Prize
Application form

For information, please go to the following websites:

http://ec.europa.eu/justice_home/news
(European Commission, Directorate General for Justice, Freedom and Security)

www.coe.int/CEPEJ
(European Commission for the Efficiency of Justice/CEPEJ - Council of Europe)
Preamble

In 2005 the Commission and the Council of Europe created the biennial European "Crystal Scales of Justice" prize for innovative practices in civil justice organisation and procedures in the courts of Europe.

The European Commission and Council of Europe jointly institute a complementary biennial prize for projects designed to improve justice organisation and procedures, mutual knowledge and exchange of best practice in the area of criminal justice. The Crystal Scales of Criminal Justice prize will be awarded with a view to discovering and promoting innovative and effective practices in respect of the conduct of criminal proceedings in the Member States of the European Union and the Council of Europe and concerning court organisation, in order to improve the operation of the public system of criminal justice.

The prize will be awarded in the years in which the civil justice prize is not awarded. The award ceremony for the first edition of the Criminal Justice Prize will take place during the plenary meeting of the Justice Forum in the first half of 2009.

Article 1 - Competition conditions

In order to be able to participate in the competition, initiatives must be put forward by a court, a prosecution office, a Bar Association or an association of legal professionals, a prison/probation administration or any other entity responsible for criminal justice affairs in a Member State of the European Union or of the Council of Europe.

The initiatives must have been introduced in order to improve the organisation and procedures of criminal justice systems, particularly for the users of justice, or to improve mutual knowledge and exchange of best practice in the area of criminal justice. They must therefore be innovative practices and their results must be measurable.

An initiative which has not been shortlisted cannot be presented for another edition of the competition. A court, prosecution office, Bar Association or association of legal professionals, prison/probation administration or any other entity responsible for criminal justice affairs can present several initiatives for the same edition of the competition.

Article 2 - Organisation of the competition
The competition is jointly organised by the European Commission's Directorate General for Justice, Freedom and Security and the Council of Europe's Directorate General of Human Rights and Legal Affairs of the Council of Europe (hereafter “the organisers”).

Article 3 - Entries

The applications shall be submitted, preferably electronically, or by post, to one of the addresses indicated below. The deadline for applications is 1 March 2009.

Crystal Scales of Justice
European Commission
DG Justice, Freedom and Security
Unit E1
B-1049 BRUXELLES
E-mail: jls-justiceforum@ec.europa.eu
Fax: (32) 22.97.95.88

Or

CEPEJ Secretariat –“Crystal Scales of Justice” Prize
Directorate General of Human Rights and Legal Affairs Council of Europe
F - 67075 STRASBOURG Cedex
E-mail: cepej@coe.int
Fax: (33) 3.88.41.37.43

The applications shall be submitted, preferably, in English or in French or, where this is not possible, in one of the other official languages of the European Union.

The applications must include:
1) An application form duly filled in, in accordance with the attached model,
2) A summary of the initiative, in accordance with the attached model,
3) If necessary, a limited number of annexed documents can be included. If those are in an original language other than English or French, a brief summary in English or French should be presented.

Article 4 - Composition of the jury

The jury is composed of 10 members and 1 President, appointed by the organisers.

Article 5 - Selection procedure of the projects
The applications which fulfil the conditions of these rules will be transmitted to the members of the jury by the European Commission and the Council of Europe.

The organisers will send the applications to the members of the jury as soon as possible after their reception. Each member of the jury shall transmit to the organisers, electronically and prior to the meeting of the jury, a list of the projects which he or she considers should be pre-selected (a maximum of 10 projects).

On the basis of this, the organisers will establish a list of 10 pre-selected projects. The list will be sent to the members of the jury two weeks prior to the meeting. The members of the jury shall respect the secrecy of the composition of this list.

The jury will meet in April in order to proceed with the selection of prize-winning projects.

During the meeting, the jury will proceed with the examination of the 10 pre-selected projects. Among these 10 projects, the jury will select 4 projects by secret ballot specifying an order of preference.

The method will be that each judge shall award 4 points to the best project, 3 points to the second placed project, 2 points to the third placed project and one point to the fourth placed project. After counting the points, in the event of a tie a second vote by simple majority can be taken in order to decide between two projects with the same number of points.

The project which has received the highest number of points will be awarded the “Crystal Scales of Justice” Prize. The three other projects will be given a “special mention” by the jury.

The decisions of the jury cannot be appealed.

The members of the jury and the organisers are to remain silent on the debate until the award of the Prize and the special mentions.

Article 6 - Criteria for eligibility and selection of projects

The jury must ensure that the projects fulfil the following criteria of eligibility:
- deal with criminal judicial procedures or court organisation,
- deal with innovative practices effectively implemented,
- have improved the functioning of the public service of criminal justice
- can be applied to other jurisdictions or states.

During the selection of the eligible projects, the jury must also ensure:
- compliance with the objectives of the Prize,
- quality of the projects,
- balance between the different legal systems,
- balance in the themes dealt with by the projects.

**Article 7 - The Prize**

The "Crystal Scales of Justice" Prize will be presented to the winner by the European Commission and the Council of Europe during the plenary meeting of the Justice Forum.

The representatives of the institutions or organisations which submitted the best four projects will be invited to attend the awarding ceremony.

The organisers undertake to arrange appropriate publicity for the prize-winning initiative and for the three projects that receive a special mention.

**Article 8 - Cancellation of the competition**

The organisers reserve the right to cancel the competition at any time. If this happens, participants will be individually informed as soon as possible.
Entry form

(Please note that this file - without the attachments – once completed should not exceed 6 pages)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>To be returned to the European Commission or Council of Europe by 1 March 2009</th>
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<tr>
<td>Crystal Scales of Justice European Commission DG Justice, Freedom and Security Unit E1 B-1049 BRUXELLES E-mail: <a href="mailto:jls-justiceforum@ec.europa.eu">jls-justiceforum@ec.europa.eu</a> Fax: (32) 22.97.95.88</td>
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1. Details of applicant (institution/organisation)

   Name:

   Address:

   Tel.:

   E-mail:

2. Represented by

   First name/Surname:

   Post held:

   Tel.:

   E-mail:

3. Scheme submitted

   Title:

   Date of introduction:
4. Please attach to the entry form, preferably in English or in French or, where this is not possible, in one of the other official languages of the European Union:

a. A description of the scheme (maximum 1 page)

b. A description of the effects of the scheme on the workings of the court (maximum 1 page)

c. Any possible future additions which might improve the results of the scheme (maximum 1 page)

d. Any documents, press articles, evidence from members of the public etc. relating to the scheme (with a brief summary in English or French)

5. Does the scheme have the support of the competent public authorities in your country? If so, please give details.

6. Do you believe the scheme to be usable in other courts in European states? Give your reasons.

I, .................., representing the aforementioned institution/organisation, declare that I am aware of the rules of the competition, with which I undertake to comply.

Done at
On (date)

Signed
### Summary
(Please note that this summary should not exceed 2 pages)

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**Description of the scheme:**

**Effects on the working of the court:**

**Future additions to improve the results:**

**Public authority support:**

**Possible application in other European countries:**

**Attachments:**