

EUROPEAN CAPITAL OF INNOVATION

A place to bring
ideas to life



European Capital of Innovation Awards 2020

RULES OF CONTEST

1. THEME: EUROPEAN CAPITAL OF INNOVATION AWARDS

1.1 Objectives pursued

With their capacity to connect people, places, public and private actors, urban areas can substantially enhance innovation in Europe and improve the quality of citizens' lives. New approaches to undertake and deploy innovative practices are gaining support, making the shift from traditional top-down schemes to more open and bottom-up practices. Cities increasingly act as platforms for experimentation, engaging citizens at all levels of governance and stages of innovation, from problem definition, to solution testing and application.

The European Union recognises yearly cities with inclusive innovation ecosystems by awarding the European Capital of Innovation prize. The prize identifies urban ecosystems that connect citizens, the public sector, academia, and business, and successfully translate their results into improved wellbeing of their citizens. The award is part of the European Union's efforts to raise awareness about the benefits of urban innovation 'with' and 'for' the citizens, supporting cities in addressing relevant societal challenges, and strengthening their urban resilience.

1.2 Expected results

The European Capital of Innovation Awards aim at **championing** inspiring cases of citizen-led and municipality-enabled innovation flourishing in cities. The Award is a **prestigious recognition** for city administrators who are courageous enough to open up their governance practices to experimentation. In addition to the monetary reward, the prize brings **high visibility** in the form of renewed public interest and increased media coverage.

The award will raise the profile of city teams that have developed and implemented innovative policies; enhanced citizens' role in finding local solutions and participating in the decision-making process; facilitated the city attractiveness towards investors, industry, top class talents and entrepreneurial individuals; helped the city to open up connections with others and cooperate with them, thus inspiring and helping identify best practices to be replicated across Europe.

The Award will recognise:

- **1 European Capital of Innovation 2020**
The Winner will be named the **European Capital of Innovation 2020** and will receive a **prize of one million EUR**. The prize is dedicated to **promote** the Winning city's innovative practices, **raise its international profile**, and enhance its capacity as a widely recognised **role model city** for urban innovation.
- **5 runner-up cities**
Top five cities with the most disruptive innovation practices that lead to outstanding impact will be awarded each a **monetary prize of 100 000 EUR**. The prize will reward runners-up' innovative solutions and will allow further **scale-up of its initiatives**.
- **12 finalist cities**
Twelve finalist cities, among which the Winner and the 5 runner-up cities, will be given the opportunity to **showcase** their experimentation and gain **inspiration** from experiences of other cities – for example, to learn about new approaches through the exchange of good practices, initiatives, ideas, and innovations. All finalist cities will be included in the **iCapital Alumni network**.

2. PRIZE AMOUNTS:

1 First prize of EUR 1 000 000

5 Runner-up prizes of EUR 100 000

3. DEADLINES & ADMISSIBILITY

Deadlines	
Opening of the submission:	05 March 2020
Closing date for submission:	23 June 2020 at 17:00 CET ¹
Hearings of the finalist cities	end August or early September 2020
Award Ceremony	22 – 24 September 2020 (tbc)

Applications must be submitted by the participant via the [Funding and Tenders Portal Submission Service](#).

Applications must be readable, accessible and printable. Incomplete applications may be considered inadmissible if essential elements are missing (see [General Annex B to the Main Work Programme](#)).

The page-limit for your prize application (Part B) is: 30 pages.

A sample application form is available on the [Funding and Tenders Portal – under topic conditions and documents](#).

4. ELIGIBILITY

4.1 Eligibility criteria

The contest is open to cities² complying with the following eligibility criteria:

1. Cities must be located in one of the EU Member States or in a [country associated to Horizon 2020](#).
2. Cities must have a population above 100 000 inhabitants. In countries where there are no such cities, the biggest city is eligible.³
3. Winners of former European Capital of Innovation Awards contests are not eligible. This does not apply to runner-up and finalist cities.

Since the Award refers to a given year (2020), **the actions proposed by each candidate city must relate to completed or on-going initiatives started after 1st January 2019**, as specified in the application form. The information for this is to be submitted as a separate document via the submission system.

¹ Central European Time = Brussels Local Time.

² Metropolitan areas fulfilling the specified eligibility criteria are also eligible.

³ For the purposes of this competition, a 'city' is an urban area understood as an administrative unit governed by a city council or another form of democratically elected body. For population data, Eurostat will be the source of reference (for countries not covered by Eurostat, the European Commission may perform specific checks when assessing the eligibility criteria).

Each application must contain a **specific commitment to apply signed by the city Mayor** (or the equivalent highest political representative). This is to be submitted as a separate document via the submission system.

An application can include different initiatives from the same city (e.g. projects run by different city departments).

Please note, however, that special rules may apply for entities from certain countries and that an application will only be considered eligible if its content corresponds, wholly or in part, to the contest description for which it is submitted. (see [General Annex C to the Main Work Programme](#)). Please also be aware that participants that have already received an EU or Euratom prize cannot receive a second prize for the same activities.

4.2 Exclusion criteria

Participants will be excluded if they (or one of them):

- a) are subject to an administrative sanction (i.e. exclusion or financial penalty decision);⁴
- b) are in one of the following situations⁵:
 - bankrupt, being wound up, having the affairs administered by the courts, entered into an arrangement with creditors, suspended business activities or subject to any other similar proceedings or procedures (including procedures for persons with unlimited liability for the participant's debts);
 - in breach of social security or tax obligations (including if done by persons with unlimited liability for the participant's debts);
 - guilty of grave professional misconduct⁶ (including if done by persons having powers of representation, decision-making or control, beneficial owners or persons who are essential for the award of the prize);
 - committed fraud, corruption, links to a criminal organisation, money laundering, terrorism-related crimes (including if done by terrorism financing), child labour or human trafficking (including persons having powers of representation, decision-making or control, beneficial owners or persons who are essential for the award of the prize);
 - shown significant deficiencies in complying with main obligations under an EU procurement contract, grant agreement or grant decision (including if done by persons having powers of representation, decision-making or control, beneficial owners or persons who are essential for the award of the prize);

⁴ See Article 136(1) of Regulation (EU, Euratom) 2018/1046 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 18 July 2018 on the financial rules applicable to the general budget of the Union, amending Regulations (EU) No 1296/2013, (EU) No 1301/2013, (EU) No 1303/2013, (EU) No 1304/2013, (EU) No 1309/2013, (EU) No 1316/2013, (EU) No 223/2014, (EU) No 283/2014, and Decision No 541/2014/EU and repealing Regulation (EU, Euratom) No 966/2012 (["EU Financial Regulation"](#)) (OJ L 193, 30.7.2018, p. 1).

⁵ See Articles 136(1) and 141(1) [EU Financial Regulation](#).

⁶ Professional misconduct includes: violation of ethical standards of the profession, wrongful conduct with impact on professional credibility, false declarations/misrepresentation of information, participation in a cartel or other agreement distorting competition, violation of IPR, attempting to influence decision-making processes or obtain confidential information from public authorities to gain an advantage.

- guilty of irregularities within the meaning of Article 1(2) of Regulation No 2988/95 (including if done by persons having powers of representation, decision-making or control, beneficial owners or persons who are essential for the award of the prize);
 - created under a different jurisdiction with the intent to circumvent fiscal, social or other legal obligations in the country of origin or created another entity with this purpose (including if done by persons having powers of representation, decision-making or control, beneficial owners or persons who are essential for the award of the prize).
- c) have misrepresented information required for participating in the contest or fail to submit such information;⁷
- d) were involved in the preparation of the prize documents and this entails a distortion of competition⁸.

5. AWARD CRITERIA

The prize will be awarded to the entry that best addresses the following cumulative criteria.:

1. **Experimenting** – innovative concepts, processes, tools, and governance models proving the city's commitment to act as a test-bed for innovative practices, and ensuring mainstreaming of these practices into the urban development process;
2. **Engaging** – increasing opportunities for a broader range of citizens and ensuring uptake of their ideas;
3. **Expanding** – outlining the city's potential to attract new talent, resources, funding, investments, and to become a role model for other cities;
4. **Empowering** – concrete and measurable impact directly connected to the implementation of innovative practices.

6. DOCUMENTS

The mandatory supporting documents are set out in the application form.

Participants may be asked at a later stage for further documents (for legal entity validation, bank account validation, ethics review, final eligibility checks, declaration of honour on exclusion grounds, etc).

7. PROCEDURE

If there are more than 80 applications, there will be a pre-selection phase to select the best 80 applications to pass to jury review. Otherwise, all applications will pass directly to jury review.

The pre-selection panel and jury usually have a different composition, but jury members may participate in the pre-selection panel.

The jury evaluation is planned to take place between July and September 2020.

The pre-selection panel/jury will evaluate each application against the 4 award criteria and score them as follows (half marks are possible decimals are not):

⁷ See Article 141(1) [EU Financial Regulation](#).

⁸ See Article 141(1) [EU Financial Regulation](#).

Criterion	Threshold	Maximum points
1. EXPERIMENTING	3	5
2. ENGAGING	3	5
3. EXPANDING	3	5
4. EMPOWERING	3	5
Total	12	20

For applications with the same score, the pre-selection panel/jury will determine a priority order according to the following approach: The score for the criterion No 1 will be given a weight of 2 and the score for criterion No 2 will be given a weight of 1.5. If two or more applications tie, the prize(s) will be equally divided and awarded.

The 12 best applications will be invited for a hearing in Brussels.

On the basis of the evaluation by the jury (and after the mandatory checks: ethics review, security scrutiny, legal entity validation, non-exclusion, double funding and plagiarism, etc.), the Commission will decide on the award of the prizes.

All participants will be informed on the outcome of their application the latest by end September 2020.

8. OTHER CONDITIONS

8.1 Payment arrangements

The prize money, i.e. EUR 1 000 000 for the winner and EUR 100 000) for each of the five runner-up cities (will be paid to in one instalment after the award ceremony by bank transfer, provided all the requested documents have been submitted.

8.2 Publicity — Promoting the prize — Visibility of EU funding

8.2.1 Publicity by the winners

Both finalists and the winners must promote the prize and its results, by providing targeted information to multiple audiences (including the media and the public) in a strategic and effective manner.

Unless the Commission requests or agrees otherwise or unless it is impossible, any communication activity related to the action (including in electronic form, via social media, etc.) must:

- (a) display the EU emblem and
- (b) include the following text:

“This city was finalist/runner-up/winner of the European Capital of Innovation Awards 2020 from the European Union’s Horizon 2020 research and innovation programme”.

When displayed together with another logo, the EU emblem must have appropriate prominence.

For the purposes of their obligations, the finalists, runners-up and the winner may use the EU emblem without first obtaining approval from the Commission.

This does not, however, give it the right to exclusive use.

Moreover, they may not appropriate the EU emblem or any similar trademark or logo, either by registration or by any other means.

8.2.2 Publicity by the Commission

Following the announcement of finalists cities in early August, all finalists will be required to provide a short video displaying city innovative practices in an attractive way. The European Commission will use those videos at the award ceremony and other relevant occasions to promote the prize and the awarded cities.

The Commission may use, for its communication and publicising activities, information relating to the action, documents notably summaries for publication as well as any other material, such as pictures or audio-visual material that it receives from the participants (including in electronic form).

The Commission will publish the name of both the runners-up and the winner, their origin, the amount of the prize and its nature and purpose — unless they have requested to waive this publication (because disclosure risks threatening its security and safety or harm its commercial interest).

Photos and videos taken by the Commission either in preparation of the award ceremony or during the award ceremony are the sole property of the Commission.

8.3 Dissemination and exploitation of results

The winners and runner-up cities must comply with the obligations set out in Title III of the Horizon 2020 Rules for Participation Regulation No 1290/2013.⁹

8.4 Processing of personal data

8.4.1 Processing of personal data by the Commission

Any personal data will be processed by the Commission under Regulation No 2018/1725¹⁰ and in accordance with the Data Protection Notice published on the [Funding and Tenders Portal](#).

8.4.2. Processing of personal data by the participants

The participants must process personal data in compliance with applicable EU and national law on data protection (including authorisations or notification requirements, if any).

8.5 Ethics

The activities must be carried out in compliance with:

- (a) ethical principles (including the highest standards of research integrity) and
- (b) applicable international, EU and national law.

⁹ Regulation (EU) No 1290/2013 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 11 December 2013 laying down the rules for participation and dissemination in "Horizon 2020 - the Framework Programme for Research and Innovation (2014-2020)" (OJ L 347, 20.12.2013 p.81).

¹⁰ Regulation (EU) No 2018/1725 of 23 October 2018 on the protection of natural persons with regard to the processing of personal data by the Union institutions, bodies, offices and agencies and on the free movement of such data, and repealing Regulation (EC) No 45/2001 and Decision No 1247/2002/EC (OJ L 295 21.11.2018, p.39).

No prize will be awarded for activities carried out outside the EU, if they are prohibited in all Member States.

The participants must ensure that the activities have an exclusive focus on civil applications.

The participants must ensure that the activities do not:

- (a) aim at human cloning for reproductive purposes
- (b) intend to modify the genetic heritage of human beings which could make such changes heritable (with the exception of research relating to cancer treatment of the gonads) or
- (c) intend to create human embryos solely for the purpose of research or for the purpose of stem cell procurement, including by means of somatic cell nuclear transfer.

Research activities involving human embryonic stem cells (hESC) are moreover subject to the conditions set out in the [Statement of the Commission related to research activities involving human embryonic stem cells](#).

The participants must respect the highest standards of research integrity — as set out, for instance, in the European Code of Conduct for Research Integrity¹¹.

For more information and best practice, see the [Participant Portal Online Manual](#), the [Guidance — How to complete your ethics self assessment](#) and the [Guidance note — Research focusing exclusively on civil applications](#).

8.6 Security

The activities must be carried out in compliance with Commission Decision [2015/444](#), i.e. security-sensitive information must be **EU-classified**, if its unauthorised disclosure could adversely impact the interests of the EU or of one (or more) of its Member States. Applications that are too security-sensitive cannot be awarded a prize.

For more information and best practice, see the [Guidance — Guidelines for the classification of information in research projects](#), the [Guidance note — Potential misuse of research results](#) and the [Guidance note — Research involving dual use items](#).

8.7 Conflict of interests

The participants must take all measures to prevent any situation where the impartial and objective award of the prize is compromised for reasons involving economic interest, political or national affinity, family or emotional ties or any other shared interest ('conflict of interests').

They must inform the Commission without delay of any situation constituting or likely to lead to a conflict of interests and immediately take all the necessary steps to rectify this situation.

The Commission may verify that the measures taken are appropriate and may require additional measures to be taken by a specified deadline.

8.8 Liability for damages

The Commission cannot be held liable for any damages.

8.9 Checks, audits and investigations

¹¹ European Code of Conduct for Research Integrity of ALLEA (All European Academies) and ESF (European Science Foundation) of March 2017
http://ec.europa.eu/research/participants/data/ref/h2020/other/hi/h2020-ethics_code-of-conduct_en.pdf.

The Commission, the European Anti-Fraud Office (OLAF) and the European Court of Auditors may carry out checks, audits and investigations in relation to the prize.

8.10 Withdrawal of the prize — Recovery of undue amounts

The Commission may withdraw the prize after its award and recover all payments made, if it finds out that:

- (a) false information, fraud or corruption was used to obtain it
- (b) a winner was not eligible or should have been excluded
- (c) a winner is in serious breach of its obligations under these Rules of Contest.

8.11 Administrative sanctions

If a participant is in one of the situations specified in section 4.2, the Commission may also impose administrative sanctions (i.e. exclude it from future EU contracts, grants and prizes and/or impose a financial penalty)¹².

8.12 Cancellation of the contest

The Commission may cancel the contest or decide not to award the prize — without any obligation to compensate participants —, if:

- (a) no applications are received
- (b) the jury does not find a winner
- (c) the winner is not eligible or must be excluded or
- (d) the objective of the contest has already been achieved.

8.13 Complaints

Complaints against decisions negatively affecting the rights of a participant or winner can be brought before the General Court — or, on appeal, the Court of Justice of the European Union — under Article 263 of the Treaty on the Functioning of the EU (TFEU).

9. CONTACT

For more information, please see the [prize website](#).

In case of questions, please contact RTD-I-CAPITAL@ec.europa.eu.

¹² See Articles 136(1) and 138 [EU Financial Regulation](#).