

Directorate-General for Communication

EUROPEAN CITIZEN'S PRIZE (ECP) Programme 2017

1) Objectives of the ECP and activities to be taken into consideration

Each year, the European Parliament awards "The European Citizen's Prize". This prize is awarded to citizens, groups, associations or organisations who have displayed exceptional achievements and/or outstanding commitment in the following areas:

- Activities promoting better mutual understanding and closer integration between citizens of the Member States or facilitating cross-border or transnational cooperation within the European Union.
- Activities involving long-term, cross-border or transnational cultural cooperation contributing to the strengthening of a European spirit.
- Projects linked to the current European Year.
- Activities giving concrete expression to the values enshrined in the Charter of Fundamental Rights of the European Union.

2) Conditions for award of the prize

Citizens, groups, associations or organisations who are involved in the following projects shall not be eligible for a prize:

- Projects which receive more than 50% funding through EU Institutions.
- Projects that have already received a prize awarded by a European institution.
- Activities which have been carried out in the exercise of a political function or elected mandate.
- Activities which do not comply with the values enshrined in the Charter of Fundamental Rights.
- Activities that have a profit-making objective.
- Activities by public and governmental organisations.

3) Indicative timetable and award process

23 - 27/01/2017:	Call for nominations
31/03/2017:	End of nomination period

05/04/2017 - 28/04/2017:	National jury deliberations
07/06/2017:	Chancellery decision on winners
06/2017 - 10/2017:	National award ceremonies
11/10/2017:	Central award ceremony in Brussels

Submission of nominations

Only Members of the European Parliament have the right to submit nominations - one per Member each year.

The deadline for the submission of the nomination is 31 March.

The nomination shall include a declaration that the citizens, groups, associations or organisations do not fall within the exclusion criteria signed by the representative of the organisation.

Award authority

The body authorised to award the prize is the "**European Citizen's Prize Chancellery**".

The President of the European Parliament is the Chancellor. He/she may delegate his/her powers to a Vice-President.

The Members of the Chancellery consist of:

- the Chancellor;
- four Vice-Presidents of the European Parliament;
- two former Presidents of the European Parliament;
- two eminent personalities.

They are appointed by the Bureau of the European Parliament.

The Chancellery will establish its regulations. The European Parliament Directorate-General for Communication (DG COMM) will be responsible for the secretariat, will organise Award Ceremonies and will investigate cases of possible abuse.

The Chancellery reserves the right to revoke the Citizen's Prize from awarded citizens, groups, associations or organisations in case of abuse. Such abuse may include misemployment of the Prize, the submission of false information regarding the exclusion criteria, or activities contrary to the objectives set out in Article 2 including, in particular, activities manifestly contrary to the Charter of the Fundamental Rights of the European Union.

After having given the beneficiary concerned the opportunity to present written observations, the Chancellery shall adopt a reasoned decision.

National juries

National juries consisting of at least three members of the European Parliament and at least one substitute will propose a maximum of five potential laureates from their Member States to the Chancellery, ranked in their order of preference, not later than by the 30th April each year.

The Information Office in the respective Member States invites Members to participate in the national juries on an annual basis. The composition of the national juries shall, as far as possible, reflect the balance of political opinion in the European Parliament. The decision of

the national jury shall take into account the opinions of all jury members and shall in particular mention clearly any issues which the jury members consider the Chancellery should be aware of.

In the selection procedure the national juries are assisted by the Information Offices of the European Parliament. The Information Offices should draw attention and submit any factual information they may have, which would assist the national juries or the Chancellery in their decisions.

Annual quotas

In view of the symbolic nature of the prize, the number of awards attributed each year is limited to a quota.

The Chancellery chooses up to 50 laureates from the proposed list, taking into account the principles of geographical distribution and gender balance.

Periodicity

Prizes are awarded through decisions of the Chancellery and broadcast by the Chancellery once per year. The decision on the prize laureates will be published in the Official Journal of the European Union.

Award Ceremony

The Chancellery may authorise any Member of the European Parliament to award the prize on its behalf. Public award ceremonies must be organised in the Member States. They shall be organised by the European Parliament's Information Offices and could be prepared in cooperation with the European Commission representations, the Europe Direct Network and the local public authorities.

There will be maximum publicity of the event to underline the exceptional character of the activities concerned.

In October each year a central event is to be organised in the European Parliament in Brussels or Strasbourg, bringing together the laureates of the prize.

In case of refusal by a laureate to accept the prize, he/she or, as the case may be, his/her representative shall neither be invited to the award ceremony and to the central event, nor is he/she or his/her representative entitled to attend these events and to request reimbursement of possible travel expenses.

4) Prize

The prize is in the form of a medal of honour or, for group awards, a medal or plaque of sufficient size to be displayed.

The prize has a symbolic value; the beneficiary may not claim any compensation.

5) Legal disclaimer

The European Parliament reserves the right to revoke the Citizen's Prize from awarded citizens, groups, associations or organisations in case of abuse. Such abuse may include misemployment of the Prize or activities contrary to the objectives referred to in section 1.