

RULES ON THE EUROPEAN CITIZEN'S PRIZE

BUREAU DECISION

OF 7 MARCH 2011¹

Article 1
Designation

Each year, the European Parliament will award "The European Citizen's Prize".

Article 2
Activities to be taken into consideration

This prize is to be awarded to citizens, groups, associations or organisations for projects they have carried out and through which they 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.

The Chancellery may decide on a theme for the submitted projects for a specific annual edition of the Prize.

Article 3
Eligibility criteria

Only projects carried out exclusively within EU Member States or partially within EU Member States (where the part of the project carried out within EU Member States represents more than 50% of the project's overall budget) shall be considered.

Eligible for the award are citizens who are either nationals of an EU Member State or third-country nationals who reside legally on the territory of the Union at the date of the submission of their nomination or application.

Groups, associations and organisations with legal personality are eligible for the award if they are registered in an EU Member State at the date of the submission of their nomination or application. Groups, associations and organisations without legal personality are eligible for the award if the

¹ Amended by the Bureau decisions of 16 January 2012, 26 February 2013, 14 December 2015, 21 November 2016 and 10 February 2020.

project leader and the person representing the group / association / organisation are either nationals of an EU Member State or third-country nationals residing legally in an EU Member State on the date of the submission of the nomination or application of the group / association / organisation. For the purpose of the eligibility of groups, associations and organisations without legal personality, the project leader and the person representing the group / association / organisation may be the same person.

Article 4 *Exclusion criteria*

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 from the EU budget;
- projects that have already received a prize awarded by a European institution, body, office or agency;
- 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.

Citizens, groups, associations or organisations shall not be eligible for the Prize in case they had been found guilty of a criminal offence by a final judgement.

Groups, associations or organisations without legal personality are not eligible for the Prize if the project leader or the person representing them had been found guilty of a criminal offence by a final judgement.

Article 5 *Form of the award*

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.

Article 6 *Submission of nominations or applications*

Citizens, groups, associations or organisations complying with the criteria laid down in Articles 3 and 4 of these Rules, can apply for the European Citizen's Prize for projects they have carried out.

Moreover, citizens, groups, associations or organisations complying with the eligibility criteria in second and third paragraphs of Article 3, can nominate one other citizen, group, association or organisation for the European Citizen's Prize.

In the case of groups and cross-border projects, the nomination or application should be examined by the national jury in the Member State where, in budgetary terms, most of the activities took place.

Applications / nominations can be submitted in all official EU languages. Details about the submission of applications / nominations will be given in the call for nominations / applications, which will be publicized in all Member States.

The deadline for the submission of the nomination or application is in principle 31 March. The deadline for submitting nominations / applications can be modified by the Chancellor taking into account the European Parliament's calendar and possible special circumstances.

The nomination or application shall include a declaration signed by the citizen / representative of the group / organisation / association certifying that the citizen / group / association / organisation comply with the eligibility criteria as set out in Article 3 and do not fall under an exclusion criteria as set out in Article 4. In case of nominations or applications of associations or organisations, the statutes shall also be annexed to the nomination or application.

Article 7 *National juries*

National juries consisting of at least three members of the European Parliament, a representative of a national civil society organisation and a representative of a national youth organisation, will propose a maximum of five potential laureates from their Member States to the Chancellery, not in priority order, not later than the date set by the Chancellor.

The Liaison 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 Liaison Office shall also invite representatives of national civil society and youth organisations to participate in the national juries on an annual basis.

The Chancellery shall issue guidelines to be followed by the EP Liaison Offices: (a) on the composition of the national juries, and (b) on the methodology governing the proceedings of the juries and particularly the voting procedure.

The decision of the national jury on the list of proposed laureates 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 of the proposed laureates, the national juries are assisted by the Liaison Offices of the European Parliament. The Liaison Offices should draw attention and submit any factual information they may have, which would assist the national juries or the Chancellery in their decisions.

Article 8 *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;
- one representative of a pan-European civil society organisation and one representative of a pan-European youth organisation.

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 carry out the necessary administrative assessments.

Article 9 *Award decision*

The Chancellery awards the Prize by a reasoned decision based on the propositions of laureates made by the national juries.

The decision of the Chancellery is final.

The Chancellor reserves the right to suspend the award of the Prize to citizens, groups, associations or organisations in case of pending legal proceedings against them for criminal offences. The Chancellor may wait until the conclusion of the legal proceedings to decide whether the Prize will be awarded to them or not.

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 eligibility or 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.

The Chancellery has also the right to revoke the Prize from awarded citizens, groups, associations or organisations, if, within a period of 10 years after the award of the Prize:

- (a) they have been found guilty of a criminal offence by a final judgement;
- (b) in the case of groups, associations or organisations without legal personality, the project leader or the person representing them has been found guilty of a criminal offence by a final judgement.

In the case of suspension of the award or revocation of the Prize, the Chancellery shall give the laureate concerned the opportunity to present written observations before a decision is adopted.

The Prize can be awarded posthumously in case the declaration on the eligibility and exclusion criteria, as required under the sixth paragraph of Article 6, had been signed by the respective citizen / project manager / representative of the group, association or organisation before he/she was deceased.

The Chancellery's decisions are taken by a majority vote of its members present in a special meeting convened by the Chancellor.

Article 10
Annual quotas

In view of the symbolic nature of the prize, the number of awards attributed each year is limited to a quota of maximum 50 laureates, taking into account the gender balance.

The Chancellery chooses at least one laureate from each Member State. In exceptional cases, the Chancellery could choose more than one laureate for a Member State.

Article 11
Periodicity

Prizes are awarded through decisions of the Chancellery once per year and communicated by the Chancellery right after the award decision, to the winners and those who have nominated them.

The decision on the Prize laureates shall be published in the Official Journal of the European Union.

Article 12
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 Liaison Offices and could be prepared in cooperation with the European Commission representations, the Europe Direct Network and the local public authorities.

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

Each year a central event is 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.

Article 13
Copyright

The European Parliament reserves the right to reproduce the contributed material for presentation, media and promotional purposes.

Article 14
Responsibility

The organisers cannot be held responsible for the cancellation, postponement or modification of the competition due to unforeseen circumstances.

Article 15
Acceptance of regulations

Participation in the competition implies full acceptance of the above rules.