



## FAQs - Frequently Asked Questions

### ➤ **What is a project?**

A project is a piece of planned work or an activity that takes place over a fixed period of time and intends to achieve a particular purpose.

### ➤ **For what kind of action/activity/project can a citizen, a group of citizens, an association or an organisation be awarded the European Citizen's Prize?**

Article 2 of the Rules of the European Citizen's Prize states:

*"A citizen, a group of citizens, association or organisation can be awarded the European Citizen's Prize 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
- a specific theme that might have been added by the Chancellor of the Prize.

You may take a look at previous winners [here](#).

### ➤ **Can lifetime achievements be awarded the European Citizen's Prize?**

**No.** As a lifetime achievement is not a project it is not eligible. Only **specific projects** are being examined.

### ➤ **What projects are considered for the European Citizen's Prize?**

Article 3 of the Rules of the European Citizen's Prize on eligibility criteria states:

*"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."*

Moreover, the projects should deal with one of the aforementioned areas in the first bullet point of this page (listed in Article 2 of the Rules) and should not fall under the "Exclusion Criteria" presented in Article 4 of the Rules of the European Citizen's Prize.

### ➤ **Are there also eligibility criteria for the citizens, group of citizens, associations and organisations as regards being able to receive the Prize?**

Yes. Article 3 of the Rules of the European Citizen's Prize on eligibility criteria states:

*"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 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.”*

Moreover, Article 4 of the Rules of the European Citizen’s Prize on exclusion criteria - states:

*“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 have 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.”*

➤ **Can a project, that was fully sponsored / financed by a company, apply / be nominated?**

Yes, but the project itself cannot have a profit-making objective.

➤ **Can the organisational statutes be sent separately from the application on the registration platform?**

The organisation’s/association’s statutes should be uploaded on the registration platform (EU Survey). In case of problems, please send an email to [CitizensPrize@europarl.europa.eu](mailto:CitizensPrize@europarl.europa.eu) once you have submitted the application / nomination, including the full name of the project and the date the application / nomination was done.

➤ **What if my attachments (to be uploaded) are bigger than the 1 MB maximum upload size?**

Please [compress the files](#) and upload them preferably in PDF format.

➤ **Is there an age limit for applying or being nominated?**

No, there is no age limit for applying or being nominated.



➤ **How many projects from a citizen, group of citizens, an association or organisation can a Member of the European Parliament or a private citizen nominate?**

For each edition of the Prize, every Member of the European Parliament is entitled to nominate **only one** citizen or group of citizens or an association or an organisation.

➤ **How many projects can a citizen, group of citizens, association or organisation nominate?**

A citizen, a group of citizens, an association or an organisation is entitled to nominate **one** other project from citizen, group of citizens, association or organisation for the European Citizen's Prize.

*(Rules of the European Citizen's Prize - Article 6 - Submission of nominations or applications)*

➤ **Is there a difference between a project nomination by a citizen / group of citizens / association / organisation and a nomination by a Member of the European Parliament?**

**No, there is no difference.** However, Members of the European Parliament who have submitted nominations cannot participate in national juries examining these nominations.

➤ **Can a citizen, group of citizens, association or organisation apply with more than one project?**

Citizens, groups of citizens, associations or organisations complying with the criteria laid down in Articles 3 and 4 of the Rules of the European Citizen's Prize, can apply for the European Citizen's Prize for projects they have carried out. In this regard, they can apply more than once, each time with a different project.

➤ **When should the project have taken place?**

The rules do not mention when a project should have taken place. However, it is advisable that it should have finished recently or is still running.

➤ **Is it possible to nominate somebody else in addition to a self-application?**

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

*(Rules of the European Citizen's Prize - Article 6 - Submission of nominations or applications)*

➤ **In which language can an application / nomination be submitted?**

Applications can be submitted in any official language of the European Union.

If the target country regarding projects with transnational or cross-border aspects is different from the country of the applicant, the project will be translated in the common language of the national jury. This is organised by the Prize Secretariat.

*(Rules of the European Citizen's Prize - Article 6, paragraph 4 - Submission of nominations or applications)*

➤ **In which Member State will the first be evaluated?**

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, meaning more than 50 % of the project's budget. In case of doubt, the Prize secretariat will contact the applicant / nominator to determine where the project took place.



*(Rules of the European Citizen's Prize - Article 6, paragraph 3 - Submission of nominations or applications)*

➤ **Can a journalist apply for the European Citizen's Prize?**

In principle, everyone can apply for the European Citizen's Prize if there is full compliance with the Rules of the Prize as regards the eligibility of the person and the submitted project (*mainly Articles 2, 3 and 4 of the Rules of the European Citizen's Prize*).

If the journalist is working for a public/governmental media organisation, then his related project will **most likely** fall under the exclusion criteria of Article 4 and, in particular, the fact that "activities by public and governmental organisations" shall not be eligible.

However, if the journalist has carried out a project outside his normal work and without any payment for it (for example on a volunteer basis in his free time), then he **might** be considered eligible, if all other clauses of the Rules allow for it.

**Please note that only the Chancellery of the European Citizen's Prize can decide whether an application / nomination is eligible or not, having examined the whole file of the particular application / nomination.**

➤ **Is a project that has been carried out in the exercise of a political function or elected mandate eligible?**

A project that has been carried out in the exercise of a political function or elected mandate is **not eligible**.

*(Rules of the European Citizen's Prize - Article 4 - Exclusion criteria)*

➤ **Can I apply with a project idea that has not been implemented yet?**

**No.** Projects that are still in preparation at the time of application are not eligible.

*(Rules of the European Citizen's Prize - Article 2 - Activities to be taken into consideration)*

➤ **Can a school or a group of students apply?**

A group of students (from a private or a public school), even with a teacher, can apply for a project outside the normal school activities.

A public school cannot apply itself (as an organisation) since it falls under the exclusion criteria - activities by public and governmental organisations (*Article 4 of the Rules of the European Citizen's Prize*).

In principle, a private school can apply itself as an organisation (provided of course that it satisfies the Rules of the Prize).

➤ **Is an application / nomination, where the submitted project is a research study / thesis / dissertation, eligible?**

There is nothing in the rules that makes it non-eligible, as long as it satisfies the eligibility criteria (*Articles 2 and 3 of the Rules of the European Citizen's Prize*) and does not fall under the exclusion criteria (*Article 4 of the Rules of the European Citizen's Prize*).

➤ **Can the Prize be awarded posthumously?**

The Prize can be awarded posthumously in case the registration form was submitted before he / she deceased.

*(Rules of the European Citizen's Prize - Article 9 - Award Decision)*



➤ **Who selects the winners?**

The selection takes place in two stages:

1. 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, shall propose a maximum of five potential winners (not in priority order) from their Member States to the Chancellery of the European Citizen's Prize.
2. The Chancellery selects the winning projects out of the shortlisted ones that were provided by the national juries.

The Chancellery consists 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.

*(Articles 7 and 8 - National juries and Award authority - Rules of the European Citizen's Prize)*

➤ **How many winners of the European Citizen's Prize are there for each edition?**

The Chancellery chooses at least one winner from each Member State. In exceptional cases, the Chancellery can choose more than one winner for a Member State. However, the number of awards attributed each year is limited to a quota of maximum 50 winners.

*(Rules of the European Citizen's Prize - Article 10 - Annual Quotas)*

➤ **When will I be informed if I am a winner?**

The Chancellery will inform the winners and those who have nominated them right after the award decision.

*(Rules of the European Citizen's Prize - Article 11 - Periodicity)*

➤ **Where will the names of the winners be published?**

The official announcement is done through the [Official Journal of the EU](#) (series "C"), as well as on the [Prizes Section on the website of the European Parliament](#).

Moreover, the Chancellor of the European Citizen's Prize sends a personalised congratulations letter to each of the winners.

*(Article 10 - Periodicity - of the Rules of the European Citizen's Prize)*

➤ **How are the winners honoured for being awarded the European Citizen's Prize?**

Firstly, the European Parliament Liaison Offices in the Member States organise national ceremonies to honour the winner(s) from their respective Member States.

Secondly, a central award ceremony is organised in Brussels or Strasbourg in autumn, bringing together all winners of the Prize. The European Parliament covers the travel and accommodation costs for the winner or a single representative of the winning organisation.

➤ **How much money will I get if I am a winner?**

The prize has a symbolic value; the winners receive a medal and a diploma and may not claim any financial compensation / reward.



➤ **My question has not been answered, how can I contact you?**

Please email [CitizensPrize@europarl.europa.eu](mailto:CitizensPrize@europarl.europa.eu) with any questions you have and we will answer your query as soon as possible.

➤ **Where can I find up-to-date information about the European Citizen's Prize?**

<https://www.europarl.europa.eu/at-your-service/en/be-heard/Prizes>

Applications/Nominations in all EU languages:

<https://ec.europa.eu/eusurvey/runner/EuropeanCitizensPrize2022>