



Directorate-General for Communication

EUROPEAN CITIZEN'S PRIZE (ECP) Programme 2015

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 intended to be an award for exceptional achievements in the following areas:

- Activities or actions by citizens, groups, associations or organisations having displayed an outstanding commitment to promoting better mutual understanding and closer integration between citizens of the Member States; or to facilitating cross-border or transnational cooperation within the European Union. This could also include activities or actions by citizens engaged in long-term, cross-border or transnational cultural cooperation contributing to the strengthening of a European spirit. Preference will be given to projects linked to the current European Year.
- Day to day activities giving concrete expression to the values entailed in the Charter of fundamental rights of the European Union.

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

2) Conditions for award of the prize

Citizens, groups, associations or organisations who are involved in the following projects cannot be considered:

- Projects which receive more than 50% funding through EU Institutions,
- Projects that have already received a prize awarded by a European institution.

The prize cannot be awarded for activities carried out in the exercise of a political function or elected mandate.

3) Indicative timetable and award process

26/01/2015	Call for nominations
31/03/2015	End of nomination period
06/04/2015 – 11/05/2015	National jury deliberations

03/06/2015	Chancellery decision on winners
06/2015 – 10/2015	National award ceremonies
14-15/10/2015	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.

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 may delegate his 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 and will organise Award Ceremonies.

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 Members of the national juries are named annually. The composition of the national juries shall, as far as possible, reflect the balance of political opinion in the European Parliament.

In the selection procedure they will be assisted by the Information Offices of the European Parliament.

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.

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