

## EUROCITIES awards 2012 - call for entries

The EUROCITIES awards recognise outstanding achievement by EUROCITIES members in the delivery of local activities or practices which improve the quality of life for citizens. The awards are judged in the context of the theme of the annual conference by an independent jury of five members with expertise in this area. They represent the host city, academia, EU institutions, media and the third sector. Jury members change every year.

### A new city politics - innovation, inspiration, involvement

At a time of crisis, citizens' engagement and confidence in political decision processes is ever more important. Measures implemented by governments at all level are increasingly under scrutiny by citizens. Protest movements show that confidence in politics is at a critical low, especially amongst young people.

The EUROCITIES awards 2012 will showcase 'a new city politics' in our three permanent categories of **innovation, participation and cooperation**. The awards will reward entries that present actions undertaken by local authorities to rebuild citizens' confidence and engagement in politics.

In each of these categories the jury will be judging to what extent the project encourages citizens to take an active interest in politics and reengage in the democratic process giving citizens the opportunity of having an concrete impact on their territory's future:

- **innovation** - in the way the activity or project finds innovative ways of engaging with the public sphere, especially with young people, for instance through new technologies;
- **participation** - in the way citizens are actively driving the democratic process, e.g. in social cohesion projects or community budgeting;
- **cooperation** - in the way the city authority and other partners work together, such as NGOs, youth organisations, schools and universities, citizens' movements, e.g. in co-production of public services and climate actions.

## Eligibility criteria

1. All full and associate members of EUROCITIES are eligible to submit an entry.
2. The conference host city and the president and vice-president of EUROCITIES are not eligible to submit an entry.
3. Winners from previous year's awards ceremony are not eligible to submit an entry.
4. Associate partners and associate business partners are not eligible to submit an entry.
5. The submitting body must be a local government authority.
6. An entry cannot be submitted if the same activity or practice has previously won a EUROCITIES award.
7. Each city may submit a maximum of one entry per category.
8. Cities can enter all three categories but can only win a maximum of one category.
9. Applications must be submitted in English.
10. Applications must be made by completing the entry form.
11. Applicants should be aware that all shortlisted entrants will be asked to produce a short film about the activity or practice and that the winners' films will be screened at the awards ceremony.

## Evaluation criteria

### General criteria

1. A clear and positive impact on the everyday life of the city for a minimum of six months before the time of award entry.
2. Transferability of the concept of the activity or practice internationally between cities.
3. Initiative taken in the planning and implementation of the activity or practice, independent of regional and national government.
4. Efficient use of available resources and long-term financial sustainability.
5. Direct relevance to the theme of the annual conference
6. The benefits are measurable and demonstrated

### Criteria related to the theme of the conference

Special consideration will be given to actions that

1. involve/target young people;
2. are based on citizens' initiatives;
3. tackle the economic concerns of citizens;
4. have a European dimension.

### EUROCITIES award for innovation criteria

1. Something new, unique, original.
2. A creative and imaginative approach to the use of financial and practical resources.
3. Evidence that the citizens affected particularly support this approach.

### EUROCITIES award for participation criteria

1. The voluntary and active participation (not simply consultation) of citizens, especially those most directly affected. (Note: schoolchildren's participation may not be considered 'voluntary').
2. Evidence of a different outcome than would otherwise be expected as a result of the participation.
3. Evidence that the citizens affected particularly support this approach.

### EUROCITIES award for cooperation criteria

1. An exceptional level of cooperation between the city authority and stakeholders, such as NGOs, youth organisations, schools and universities, citizens' movements.
2. Evidence of a different outcome than would otherwise be expected as a result of the cooperation.
3. Evidence that the citizens affected particularly support this approach.

### **Tips for a good entry**

- ✓ Stand out.  
Concentrate on the specific strengths of your project. Emphasise creative and innovative ideas that stand out from other competitors
- ✓ Be specific.  
Demonstrate the success of your approach with facts and figures. Include media coverage, if available.
- ✓ Be concise.  
Your submission should be memorable for the jury. Short, concise and insightful descriptions and a focus on the essentials are key to success.
- ✓ Be honest.  
Tell the jury about the difficulties and challenges you faced while initiating and implementing the project. Don't hide setbacks and failures, but work them into the description of how you achieved your goals.
- ✓ Use visuals.  
Your submission should contain an image or figure that reflects the essence of your project and creates the desire with the jury to learn more.

## Calendar and deadlines

|  |            |
|--|------------|
| Deadline for submission of awards entry forms                                  | 29 June    |
| First vote of the jury panel to select a shortlist from the entries (by email) | 13 July    |
| Notification of cities who have been selected for the shortlist                | 20 July    |
| Deadline for submission of a film about the entry by shortlisted cities        | 15 October |
| Final meeting of the jury panel to select the award winners                    | 7 November |
| Awards ceremony – announcement of winners and presentation of awards           | 7 November |

## Contact

### Content

Nicola Vathauer  
EUROCITIES  
Communications Director  
Tel. + 32 2 552 08 84  
nicola.vathauer@eurocities.eu

### Procedure

Russell Marie  
Nantes Metropole  
International Relations Officer  
Tel. +33 2 4099 4857  
Russell.marie@nantesmetropole.fr