

“Innovative solutions to common concerns and ground-breaking public sector approaches at the heart of the EPSA 2015 nominated projects.”

Dear EPSA Friends,

The European Institute of Public Administration (EIPA) is pleased to announce the decision on the EPSA 2015 nominees, taken by the high-level Jury, which met on 24 September in Maastricht (NL). Nine outstanding projects have been selected under this year's theme **“The Public Sector as Partner for a Better Society”**.

The nominated projects show that the EPSA award scheme is in tune with current developments in Europe since it has singled out projects that have found and implemented innovative solutions to address common concerns such as migration, labour market integration, youth unemployment and youth protection, as well as increasing citizens' involvement. On the other hand, they also prove that EPSA is very attentive to rewarding ground-breaking public sector approaches and initiatives aimed at exploring new ways of working together with proven results for improved efficiency and effectiveness in the public sector. We can mention here the unique concept of “no-stop-shop”, the comprehensive “health in all policies” approach and the challenge-driven innovation supporting growth.

All in all, the nominated projects, originating from different levels of administration and submitted by organisations which differ very much in size, represent a valuable source of inspiration for other public administrations across Europe and could be replicated elsewhere after the necessary adjustments to their own context.

The nominated projects are:

I. Supra-local/Local Award

- 1. EPSA2015072 Improved Customer Oriented Policing in an Age of Austerity, submitted by Garda Síochána Division of Dublin North Central Police Service, Ireland.**
- 2. EPSA2015107 Your City, You Decide, submitted by the Municipality of Lublin, Poland.**
- 3. EPSA2015262 Every Child Safe Forever. The development of relentless family case management and the end of parole and other court orders, submitted by Youth Protection Amsterdam Region, The Netherlands.**

II. EU/National/Regional Award

- 1. EPSA 2015047 BQ-Portal – The information portal for foreign professional qualifications, submitted by the Federal Ministry for Economic Affairs and Energy, Germany.**
- 2. EPSA2015105 Challenge-Driven Innovation – Societal Challenges as Growth Opportunities, submitted by VINNOVA - Sweden's Innovation Agency, Sweden.**
- 3. EPSA2015167 ALF (Child Benefit without Application) submitted by the Federal Ministry of Finance, Austria.**

III. Cross-cutting Award

1. **EPSA2015068 Urban Environment and Health, submitted by the Barcelona Provincial Council, Spain.**
2. **EPSA2015159 From Settlement to Employment, submitted by VIVA, Bamble Kommune, Norway.**
3. **EPSA2015187 The Future Competencies in Northern Jutland, submitted by the North Denmark Region, Denmark.**

For a short description of each project, please refer to the [online document](#).

The nine projects are now running for the EPSA 2015 awards and the three winners will be disclosed and celebrated during the Award Ceremony that will take place at the Provincial Government Buildings on the Meuse in Maastricht on Wednesday, 18 November 2015.

Programme outline

Day one – Tuesday 17 November 2015:

Morning session at EIPA premises

- Opening with keynote speech by Prof. Victor Bekkers from the Erasmus University Rotterdam and Co-ordinator of the EU-funded project LIPSE (Learning Innovation in Public Sector Environments), who will focus on the partnership topic through the lens of social innovation and co-creation.
- Presentation by Mr Florian Hauser, Policy Officer at the ESF Legislation and Policy, Financial Engineering Unit of DG Employment, Social Affairs and Inclusion of the European Commission, who will update the audience on current initiatives of the European Commission in relation to quality and innovation in public administration.
- Parallel sessions with presentations by the nine nominated projects outlining their respective achievements, highlights of their methodologies and recommendations for replication.

Afternoon session at the Maastricht Town Hall

- Welcome by the Mayor of Maastricht, Annemarie Penn,
- Official hand over of the EPSA 2015 Best Practice Certificates by the Mayor and Prof. Dr Marga Pröhl, Director-General of EIPA.

Evening

- All participants are invited to a joint festive dinner in the “Grand Café Maastricht Soiron” at the Museum at the Vrijthof.

Day two – Wednesday 18 November:

Morning session at the Provincial Government Building in Maastricht.

- EPSA 2015 Award Ceremony.

The full agenda of this two-day event is attached and is also available on our [website](#) where you can also [register](#) online. Please note that this programme is subject to changes and will be updated regularly on our website.

We would also like to take this opportunity to **warmly invite all EPSA 2015 submitters** to this **two-day** final EPSA Conference, which will start on **Tuesday, 17 November**, and which will be fully dedicated to the partnership theme of the EPSA 2015. This international conference

marks the celebration of the EPSA 2015, where you can come together, exchange ideas with other proven working solutions for public sector challenges and learn from each other.

Please note that the travel and accommodation costs will have to be borne by your administration, but EIPA offers two lunches, 1 dinner and coffee breaks as well as attendance to various events and the conference material for free.

Keep on checking [our website](#) for updates on keynote speakers and time schedules.

We look very much forward to welcoming you in Maastricht in November.

The EPSA 2015 Team

You cannot come to the EPSA final event and award ceremony, but would still like to learn from acknowledged EPSA best practices? Then have a look at EIPA's upcoming training activities involving EPSA cases:

- ***New programme for the seminar on “Social Innovation: Improving Effectiveness and Efficiency in Public Service Delivery through Co-design and Co-creation”, Maastricht, 28-29 October 2015***

The key question for public administrations across Europe is, how can the public sector find radical new ways of delivering better services and outcomes at significantly lower costs? **Social innovation** has evolved as the core concept relevant for provision of alternative service delivery models, designed around the needs of service users, with a more strategic focus and reduced public spending as a result. This interactive seminar will focus on **co-creation and human-centred design approaches** to put into effect improved social service delivery and is implemented in cooperation with **MindLab** (DK), one of Europe's leading public cross-governmental innovation units. Join us in Maastricht to learn about social innovation and working solutions in this area coming from the EPSA cases and to actively take part in workshops led by **MindLab**.

See the [updated programme](#) for more information.

- ***Innovation Capacities in the Public Sector - Strategic Linkages between Leadership, HRM and Innovation, Maastricht 9-10 December 2015***

The challenge for European public administrations is to develop the ability to **master innovation processes**. They need to accelerate the strategic use of innovation processes and to build the necessary organisational environments which can authorise innovation in practice. The seminar is based on a practice-oriented learning methodology where key messages are explained through the presentation of European best practice examples and cases from EPSA that illustrate the different aspects of organisational change, new leadership approaches and HRM models and **their linkages for successful public sector innovation**. The objective is provide an insight into best practices for public sector innovation and to equip the participants with **concrete tools** for ensuring successful linkage between **innovation policies and HRM strategies**.

See the [programme and registration form](#) for more information.

- ***Public Sector Innovation Lab: Innovation Update, Business Cases and Practical Tools, Barcelona (ES), 10-11 December***

Join EIPA, Nesta, Design for Europe, EC-JRC and others at this interactive lab, which will pave the way towards more strategic and systematic approaches to innovation including digital technologies, improved access to services, co-design and co-creation, involving citizens and/or businesses, as well as diverse means of innovation management. Participants will actively apply and be familiarised with two different leading practical innovation methodologies – **design thinking** and **innovation strategy approaches** – to gain inspiration and tools that can be applied to their own national, regional or local contexts.

For more information, please see the [seminar programme and registration package](#).