



‘Assess Yourself and Learn from the Best – Showcasing and Rewarding European Public Excellence’

PRESS RELEASE

European Public Sector Award – EPISA 2015

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

The European Institute of Public Administration (EIPA) is pleased to announce the decision on the EPISA 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 EPISA award scheme is in tune with current developments in Europe since it has identified 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 citizens’ involvement. On the other hand, they also prove that EPISA 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, among others, the unique concept of “no-stop-shop”, the comprehensive “health in all policies” approach and the challenge-driven innovation for growth promotion.

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. EPISA2015072 Improved Customer Oriented Policing in an Age of Austerity, submitted by Garda Síochána Division of Dublin North Central Police Service, Ireland.**
- 2. EPISA2015107 Your City, You Decide, submitted by the Municipality of Lublin, Poland.**
- 3. EPISA2015262 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 [attached list](#).

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.

Note for the editors
Maastricht (NL), 01 October 2015

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