



Dear EPSA Friends,

We realised that due to a technical problem, some of you received this Newsletter encoded and could not read it. Please accept our apologies for the inconvenience! Here is the correct version of the Newsletter. Enjoy the reading!

Kick-off of the European Public Sector Award (EPSA 2015) " The start of yet another journey to public sector excellence.

The European Institute of Public Administration - EIPA - with the institutional and financial support of 12 European public partners - invites applications to the fifth **European Public Sector Award - EPSA 2015.**

Public administrations submitting applications for EPSA 2015 will become part of an extensive European network of public sector excellence, in which they can benchmark their achievements with their peers, whilst at the same time learning from each other.

Under the overarching theme *'The Public Sector as Partner for a Better Society'*, the EPSA 2015 seeks to showcase and reward those cases from Europe's public sector that embrace public administrations as partners in integrated and participatory governance approaches to public service delivery, that show increased effectiveness and efficiency in the context of maintaining social cohesion, innovative public management and leadership approaches, as well as sound public finances or intelligent action by public administrations to promote economic growth.

Changes towards more collaborative ways of working, developing new approaches, from service design to delivery, considering sound public finances and new leadership models, can be found in many administrations and across all administrative levels. The EPSA 2015 thus aims to reward public excellence in administrations, and public innovators behind the cases that are reflecting this 'new' role in society, and who are finding novel solutions by providing outstanding public services and by ensuring that consideration of social inclusion underpins their decisions.

Applications submitted should demonstrate changes leading to successful outcomes, for example effective engagement of stakeholders for user-centric services and improved public service delivery, increased effectiveness and efficiency in the context of maintenance of social cohesion, innovative public management and leadership approaches, sound public finances or intelligent actions by public administrations to promote economic growth.

The EPSA 2015 will present awards in **two** categories based on the level of administration:

Category 1: Projects/cases submitted by organisations from the European, national or regional level;

Category 2: Projects/cases submitted by organisations from the supra-local or local level.

In addition, a **third award** will be presented to a successful and outstanding project or case - drawn from both categories - with a significant, cross-cutting perspective, e.g. cross-border, cross-administrative, cross-sector, etc.

Besides the three above-mentioned awards, Best Practice Certificates (BPC) will be presented to a number of top-ranked projects in each category.

If your administration has novel solutions to current challenges and if you think that your administration is driving good governance and society forward as a partner, then the EPSA 2015 is the ideal opportunity to showcase your achievements and to get your successes recognised. We therefore encourage all public administrations to apply with successful and inspiring projects.

The EPSA 2015 will be presented on the occasion of a high-level event on leading-edge public administration solutions, which will be held on **17-18 November 2015** in Maastricht, the Netherlands, under the auspices of the Luxembourg EU Presidency. This event will offer a significant opportunity for European administrations with innovative performance and outstanding achievements to reach an extensive audience and to be recognised for being at the leading edge of the European public sector.

The online application period is open **from 5 February until 17 April 2015** (24.00 Brussels local time, CET).

You will find all necessary information (who can apply, how to apply, call text, etc.) on www.epsa2015.eu where applicants can also **Register** and **Apply**.

Watch the **EPSA 2015 Launch video** with an encouraging message to all applicants from Mr Guy Verhofstadt, Chairman of EIPA's Board of Governors.



[Watch the EPSA 2015 video on our YouTube channel EPSA Awards](#)



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UPCOMING EPSA RELATED EVENTS

Save the date: International EPSA Knowledge-Transfer Conference, Barcelona, 23-24 March 2015

“New Models and Practices of ICT Innovation and Management in the Public Sector - The Virtual Governance Boom Consolidating its Success in Europe”.

Use this unique opportunity to meet former EPSA champions and to learn from their first-hand experience on integrated, strategic and coherent use of ICT innovation and e-Government practices in Barcelona on 23 - 24 March 2015. In addition, you will learn about the EPSA 2015 theme ‘The Public Sector as Partner for a Better Society’ and how to showcase your outstanding public performances by submitting your innovative projects to the award scheme. This event is organised by the Catalan Centre for Technology and Telecommunication (CTTI), one of the EPSA 2013 awarded finalists, with the collaboration of the Partners Program of ESADE. Attendance is free of charge.

Keep on checking www.epsa2015.eu for updates!