PLATFORMAᴡᴀʀᴅs 2024
RULES & TERMS

The **PLATFORMAwards are a contest organised by [PLATFORMA](#), the pan-European coalition gathering local and regional governments – and their associations – active in city-to-city and region-to-region development cooperation. In 2024, for their fourth edition, the PLATFORMAwards will once again promote and reward best practices in decentralised development cooperation.**

The **secretariat of PLATFORMA is hosted by the Council of European Municipalities and Regions ([CEMR](#)), Europe's most senior organisation of towns and regions, which brings together 100,000 local and regional governments through 60 national associations. CEMR is located in Brussels (Belgium) and legally represented by its Secretary General, Fabrizio Rossi.**

I. ELIGIBILITY

WHO CAN APPLY?

Subnational governments (towns, cities, provinces, regions…) from any of the 27 EU member states[1] are eligible for the PLATFORMAwards, hereafter called the "Applicant(s)".

They must be implementing a cooperation project in partnership with one or several subnational governments from a partner country recipient of EU official development assistance[2], at the exception of beneficiaries eligible for Union funding under the Instrument for Pre-accession Assistance[3], hereafter called "the partner applicant(s)" or the "project partner(s)".

Those countries are:

- Afghanistan
- Algeria
- Angola
- Argentina
- Armenia
- Azerbaijan
- Bangladesh
- Belarus
- Belize

- Benin
- Bhutan
- Bolivia
- Botswana
- Brazil
- Burkina Faso
- Burundi
- Cabo Verde
- Cambodia

- Cameroon
- Central African Republic
- Chad
- China (People's Republic of)
- Colombia
- Comoros
- Congo
- Costa Rica

- Côte d'Ivoire
- Cuba

[1] Austria, Belgium, Bulgaria, Croatia, Cyprus, Czech Republic, Denmark, Estonia, Finland, France, Germany, Greece, Hungary, Ireland, Italy, Latvia, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Malta, Netherlands, Poland, Portugal, Romania, Slovakia, Slovenia, Spain and Sweden.

[2] EU Aid Explorer (2024): https://euaidexplorer.ec.europa.eu/explore/recipients_en and OECD list of official development assistance recipients (2024-2025): https://www.oecd.org/dac/financing-sustainable-development/development-finance-standards/DAC-List-of-ODA-Recipients-for-reporting-2024-25-flows.pdf

[3] List of countries eligible for Union funding under the Instrument for Pre-accession Assistance: https://neighbourhood-enlargement.ec.europa.eu/enlargement-policy/overview-instrument-pre-accession-assistance_en

- Democratic People's Republic of Korea
- Democratic Republic of the Congo
- Djibouti
- Dominica
- Dominican Republic
- Ecuador
- Egypt
- El Salvador
- Equatorial Guinea
- Eritrea
- Eswatini
- Ethiopia
- Fiji
- Gabon
- Gambia
- Georgia
- Ghana
- Grenada
- Guatemala
- Guinea
- Guinea-Bissau
- Guyana
- Haiti
- Honduras
- India
- Indonesia
- Iran
- Iraq
- Jamaica
- Jordan
- Kazakhstan
- Kenya
- Kiribati
- Kyrgyzstan
- Lao People's Democratic Republic
- Lebanon
- Lesotho
- Liberia
- Libya
- Madagascar
- Malawi
- Malaysia
- Maldives
- Mali
- Marshall Islands
- Mauritania
- Mauritius
- Mexico
- Micronesia
- Moldova
- Mongolia
- Montserrat
- Morocco
- Mozambique
- Myanmar
- Namibia
- Nauru
- Nepal
- Nicaragua
- Niger
- Nigeria
- Niue
- Pakistan
- Palau
- Panama
- Papua New Guinea
- Paraguay
- Peru
- Philippines
- Rwanda
- Saint Helena
- Saint Lucia
- Saint Vincent and the Grenadines
- Samoa
- Sao Tome and Principe
- Senegal
- Sierra Leone
- Solomon Islands
- Somalia
- South Africa
- South Sudan
- Sri Lanka
- Sudan
- Suriname
- Syrian Arab Republic
- Tajikistan
- Tanzania
- Thailand
- Timor-Leste
- Togo
- Tokelau
- Tonga
- Tunisia
- Turkmenistan
- Tuvalu
- Uganda
- Ukraine
- Uzbekistan
- Vanuatu
- Venezuela
- Viet Nam
- Wallis and Futuna
- West Bank and Gaza Strip
- Yemen
- Zambia
- Zimbabwe

THE PROJECT

The submitted project must be a decentralised cooperation project that contributes to the mutual development of the parties involved (EU subnational governments and partner subnational governments) and it must contribute to the implementation of one or several of the 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) of the United Nations.

The project presented should have started at least 6 months before the launch of the application call (no later than January 2024) to identify preliminary results. The project should continue at least one and a half years after the opening of application (finishing not earlier than December 2025).

The section III. *Selection criteria* further specifies the characteristics that the projects are required to meet in order to be shortlisted.

II. REGISTRATION OF APPLICANTS & SUBMISSION OF APPLICATIONS

"Applicant" refers to any eligible EU subnational government engaging in the process of an application to the PLATFORMAwards. The applicants must have the consent of their project partners before filling in the application form.

Multiple applications are allowed. Applicants can submit more than one project only if:
a) The project is implemented with a different subnational government partner and
b) a different application form is used.

The submission of an application does not give automatic access to the Ceremony nor to any retribution. No application fees are requested at any moment of the application and selection process.

By submitting an application to the PLATFORMAwards, the applicants acknowledge and accept that the information, data and images about their projects can be used by the organisers of the PLATFORMAwards to promote the shortlisted projects as well as the objectives of the PLATFORMAwards, mainly by posting the projects on the website platformawards.eu and on PLATFORMA and CEMR communication channels.

The selected applicants may be required to send additional materials about their projects for the PLATFORMAwards communication materials (online and offline) or the Ceremony. Applicants who incorporate any images or other creative materials for which rights (including intellectual property rights) belong to a third party, must obtain the third party's express permission and explicitly mention it to the PLATFORMA secretariat. The organisers of the PLATFORMAwards are not responsible for any claims related to copyright and property rights, trademarks, financial losses and liabilities.

The person filling in an application form must have full authority or permission to apply on behalf of the subnational governments. If a project is selected, it cannot be withdrawn by the applicant or its project partners for any reason.

All applicants will receive a notification by e-mail regarding the status of their application, not later than two months before the ceremony date.

III. SELECTION CRITERIA

Candidates are pre-selected from among eligible applications *(in accordance with section I. Eligibility)* and based solely on compliance with the following selection criteria grid. The main criteria determine the qualification of projects. Additional criteria do not disqualify projects but are intended to add distinction and extra points to the projects that meet these characteristics.

Further information about each main and additional criterium, and the respective indicators, can be found in ANNEX I.

MAIN CRITERIA

- **Strategic approach and objectives.** The project follows a strategic approach which is related to the cycle of sub-national policy making: problem definition, agenda setting, policy formulation, implementation, monitoring and evaluation.

- **Outcomes and local impact.** The project shows a concrete impact on the targeted territories and populations.

- **Local democracy.** The project fosters principles of local democracy and good governance at local level as outlined by the Council of Europe[4].

- **Active citizenship.** The project strengthens the participation of citizens to policy making and raises their awareness[5] on development and globalisation challenges, in line with target 4.7 of the Sustainable Development Goals[6].

- **Development effectiveness and policy coherence[7].** The project contributes to overall development effectiveness by working towards a defined sustainable objective. It takes into account different policy domains and their effect in local and global communities and ecosystems.

---

[4] Good Governance: Homepage - Good Governance (coe.int)
[5] PLATFORMA's publication Raising citizens awareness through development education
[6] SDG 4.7: "By 2030 ensure all learners acquire knowledge and skills needed to promote sustainable development, including among others through education for sustainable development and sustainable lifestyles, human rights, gender equality, promotion of a culture of peace and non-violence, global citizenship, and appreciation of cultural diversity and of culture's contribution to sustainable development"
[7] For more information on Policy Coherence for Sustainable Development:
https://international-partnerships.ec.europa.eu/policies/european-development-policy/policy-coherence-development_en

ADDITIONAL CRITERIA

- **Equality and inclusion:** The project recognises and respects the interrelation between human rights[8] and sustainable development. Specifically, it looks at:

  - **Youth**. The project contributes to empowering or involving young people and aligns with the priorities of the Youth Action Plan in European Union External Action[9].

  - **Gender equality.** The project incorporates an intersectional approach[10] in its methodology and activities. It recognises and actively addresses the multiple grounds of discrimination and unequal structures of power that affect women in all their diversity.

- **Multi-stakeholder approach.** The project fosters active dialogue of different types and groups of stakeholders, advocating partnership, inclusion, and collaboration.

- **Sustainability.** The project acknowledges that available resources are limited[11], and hence addresses the impact of its implementation for both the current and future generations.

- **Cooperation in fragile contexts[12].** The project aims at working together towards building resilience and capacity of local governments in a fragile state.

- **Communication.** The project can be easily promoted and is a good way to showcase excellence in decentralised development cooperation.

- **Innovation and creativity.** The project is based on an innovative approach, thinking outside the box to tackling problems and achieving results.

Shortlisted candidates are published on PLATFORMA websites platforma-dev.eu and/or platformawards.eu and their projects can be promoted on PLATFORMA communication channels including social networks.

IV. PLATFORMAWARDS COORDINATION

PLATFORMA SECRETARIAT
The Secretariat of PLATFORMA organises, coordinates and supervises the process.

It is responsible for:
1. Organising the contest and drafting the present PLATFORMAwards "Rules and Terms";
2. Selecting the members of the independent jury;
3. Short-listing 6 to 12 candidates amongst all eligible applications;
4. Providing the members of the jury with the selection criteria grid based on which they must select the winners.

THE JURY
To guarantee a transparent and fair selection, the independent jury is composed of elected representatives and practitioners of development cooperation from:
- European institutions,
- European and non-European cities and regions,
- Local and/or international organisations working on local development issues.

The names of the jury members are announced on platformawards.eu before the jury committee meeting. Any change in the jury composition will be announced on this website.

---

[8] EU's Toolbox for a Human Rights Based Approach
[9] Youth Action Plan in EU External Action (YAP)
[10] CEMR's study on intersectionality for LRGs
[11] UCLA: What is Sustainability?
[12] OECD: How can we improve development cooperation in fragile contexts?

V. SELECTION PROCESS

CALL FOR APPLICATIONS

The PLATFORMAwards' call for applications is open for a period of 4 months and a half (136 days) from Monday 17 June 2024 to Thursday 31 October 2024 midnight (CET).

Application forms are available online in English, French and Spanish. Submissions are accepted in English, French and Spanish.

All applicants who have submitted the application by the deadline will receive an automated or manual confirmation of receipt of their submission.

ASSESMENT OF THE PROJECTS

The secretariat of PLATFORMA proceeds to the short-list selection of candidates on the exclusive basis of the compliance with the selection criteria grid mentioned in section *III. Selection Criteria*.

For each indicator of the main criteria, projects are granted a grade from 0 to 5. The meaning of each punctuation is as follows:

0. The application does not address the criterium or is incomplete.

1. The application suggests that the criterium is partially addressed.

2. The application broadly addresses the criterium, but weaknesses or inconsistencies appear.

3. The application addresses the criterium in a good way, despite some shortcomings.

4. The application addresses the criterium in a very good way, but a small number of shortcomings are remaining.

5. The application suggests that the criterium is successfully addressed.

Projects receive one extra point for each additional criterium they meet.

The sum of the punctuations for main criteria and additional criteria is the total grade granted to the project and which will determine their classification. These grades remain confidential and will not be communicated to the applicants, regardless of whether they are shortlisted or not. Between 6 and 12 projects are shortlisted and submitted to the jury for the final decision.

FINAL SELECTION OF THE LAUREATES[13]

The jury members proceed to the final selection of laureates on the basis of the selection criteria as well as their own experience. The selection is made during a jury committee meeting organised between the closing date for applications and the Award Ceremony.

After discussion, the jury members select the winners. In case of disagreement on the laureates, the jury members proceed to a vote by either show of hands or online vote in order to determine the winners of the PLATFORMAwards 2024. This meeting is closed, and any exchanges remain confidential.

---

[13] The terms *laurate* and *winner* are hereby used interchangeably.

VI. THE AWARD

The winning project will be awarded the production of a documentary video to promote the cooperation project. The video value is fixed at €20 000 without VAT. PLATFORMA will also give visibility to the project by organising screenings during a diversity of meetings and events.

The first three selected projects, regardless of their position, will win:

1. A trip to the city where the PLATFORMAwards ceremony will be organised in Spring 2025. The date of the ceremony and the hosting city will be announced in advance on platformawards.eu;

2. Visibility for their project through articles and on-line promotion on PLATFORMA's and partners communication channels, as well as media: online interviews and webinars, social media posts, and exhibition of the projects in different settings.

3. Access to the PLATFORMAwards Network of Winners: invitation to joint conferences, channel for information sharing and peer-to-peer learning.

These Rules and Terms are valid for the fourth edition of the PLATFORMAwards. All details and issues not expressed in these regulations will be decided and communicated online by the organisers of the PLATFORMAwards.

For more information regarding the PLATFORMAwards:

- please contact Rocio Ballesta Orta, PLATFORMA Project Officer at rocio.ballestaorta@ccre-cemr.org / +32 2 842 67 75

- visit the PLATFORMAwards website.

VII. PRIVACY STATEMENT

By registering to the PLATFORMAwards, I de facto agree with the privacy statement governing the use of my personal data. The privacy statement can be downloaded here.