

## European Citizenship Awards 2016 – Rules of Procedure

### Article 1: Theme of the Awards

The European Citizenship Awards 2016 are a joint initiative between Volont europe and European Civic Forum, two European networks which promote active citizenship and recognition of the importance of social justice to the cohesion of communities across Europe. The Awards celebrate the democratic and civic engagement of individuals, organisations, citizens' groups, media platforms and social enterprises, recognising innovative initiatives and contributions which give real substance to European values<sup>1</sup>, create ownership of public space and improve the lives of our communities in terms of democracy, social justice and universal access to rights.

Eligible nominations are being sought from all current member states of the Council of Europe.

### Article 2: Award Categories

The Awards will be made in the following four categories:

1. **Campaign of the Year:** rewarding awareness-raising or advocacy campaigns organised by both informal and formal groups of citizens, including NGOs, with a real and proven impact on community life or public action, and a high potential for driving transformative change;
2. **Social Enterprise of the Year:** rewarding businesses or not-for-profits founded on the basis of social goals, which are written into the enterprise's vision and mission, the pursuit of which brings in positive social change in communities;
3. **Volunteer of the Year** rewarding individuals who have made an outstanding contribution to democratic life and to the development of a community or cause, be it through a volunteering role in an NGO or in another form of an organisation or community association (including informal groups); and
4. **Media Initiative of the Year:** rewarding professional media and media-based collaborative initiatives which give citizens effective tools to engage and bring about positive change in their communities; successful media initiatives will have used different tools for engagement and enhanced citizens' participation, fostered an informed citizenry and enabled the development of a common civic space.

### Article 3: Eligibility and Award Criteria

In order to be eligible, the nominations must be made for contributions made, operations, activities and/or volunteering which took place between 1 January 2015 and 30 days prior to the launch date of the open call for nominations (18 April 2016). We will accept nominations from all current member

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<sup>1</sup> Respect for human dignity, freedom, democracy, equality, the rule of law and respect for human rights, including the rights of persons belonging to minorities, pluralism, non-discrimination, tolerance, justice, solidarity and equality between women and men.

states of the Council of Europe, which respect and promote the values expressed in the European Treaty and the EU Charter of Fundamental Rights – the before-mentioned European values.

All applications will benefit from equal treatment regardless of age, gender, religion or nationality, and will be considered against three criteria: impact, innovative character, European values promoted.

All applications must be submitted via the online form in English. Any application submitted via another channel will be automatically excluded from the competition.

Activities carried out for the purpose of promoting a political mandate are not eligible for nominations.

#### **Article 4: Deadline for Nominations**

The deadline for nominations is **20 May 2016**. The nomination form is available [here](#).

For more information regarding the European Citizenship Awards 2016 please contact Vladimir Sestovic ([vsestovic@civic-forum.eu](mailto:vsestovic@civic-forum.eu) // +33 1 80 05 18 96)

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#### **Article 5: Selection Process**

Following the nomination period (until 20 May 2016), the winners will be selected through a two-step process:

- Shortlisting of four nominees per category by an international panel of judges;
- Final laureates for each category will be selected from amongst the shortlisted nominees on the basis of an online vote (30 May – 27 June 2016; 50% of the overall score) and decision of the judging panel (also 50% of the overall score).

#### **Article 6: Composition of the Judging Panel**

1. Cristian PIRVULESCU, Asociatia Pro Democratia, ECF Vice-President (Co-chair of the Panel)
2. Oonagh AITKEN, Volonteuropa President & ECF Vice-President (Co-chair of the Panel)
3. Iulia BADEA, Association of European Journalists
4. Vladimir VASAK, ARTE
5. Marina SARLI, CONCORD Europe
6. Ewa KULIK-BIELINSKA, European Foundation Centre
7. Oliver HENMAN, CIVICUS
8. Gulyas BALAZS, 100 thousand against the internet tax (2015 laureate “Campaign of the Year”)
9. Dimitrios MAKRYSTATHIS, Youthnet Hellas (2015 laureate “NGO of the Year”)
10. Marta MELONI, Comics for equality (2015 laureate “Media Initiative of the Year”)
11. Marsida BANDILI (2015 laureate “Personality of the Year”)
12. Natalie CRAMP, Team London, the Office of the Mayor of London
13. Eddy JOX, Volonteuropa’s EU Youth Ambassador
14. Yvonne WILSON, EquiVision (Winner of 2015 Volonteuropa ACE Awards)
15. André HUDEPOHL, Humanitas & Volonteuropa Vice President

#### **Article 7: Awards**

The winners in each of the four categories will be invited to an Awards Gala taking place on 12 September 2016 at the City Hall in London; the venue for the event – the “London Dining Room” at the top of the City Hall, has been kindly offered by Team London at the Office of the Mayor of London, for which Volonteuropa and European Civic Forum are grateful. London has also been selected as the European Volunteering Capital 2016, through an awards scheme coordinated by the European Civic

Forum. Therefore, the location of the Awards Gala in the city will make the evening even more special. Volonteurope and European Civic Forum will cover the travel and accommodation costs of the winners.

In addition, the Award winners will be given the opportunity to present their initiatives, projects and achievements during the World Forum for Democracy, taking place on 7-9 November 2016 in Strasbourg. The winners may also be invited for interviews with various European media, thus offering them further opportunities to celebrate their achievements and promote their outstanding work, ensuring that the values upon which the European project has been founded are upheld and respected across the continent.

#### **Article 8: Responsibility**

The organisers (Volonteurope and European Civic Forum) cannot be held responsible for the cancellation, postponement or modification of the competition due to unforeseen circumstances. It is highly recommended not to wait until the last minute to submit nominations.

#### **Article 9: Acceptance of Regulations**

Submission of a nomination implies full acceptance of the above rules.