

## European Citizenship Awards 2017 – Rules of Procedure

### Article 1: Theme of the Awards

The European Citizenship Awards 2017 are a joint initiative between the European Civic Forum and Volonteuropé, 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.

Against the continuous rise of extremist and populist discourse in the public sphere, inclusive societies should be more than rhetoric. Civil society is harnessing its energy to ensure that Europe is inclusive and to combat the forces that are building walls, rejecting the most vulnerable and reviving exclusion and nationalist feelings.

**The European Citizenship Awards 2017 seek to reward initiatives which contribute to combatting the root causes of extremism.** 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. **Media Campaign of the Year** will reward 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.
2. **Social Enterprise of the Year** will reward businesses or not-for-profit organisations founded on the basis of social goals, which are written into the enterprise's vision and mission, the pursuit of which brings positive social change and cohesion to communities.
3. **Volunteer of the Year** will reward 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).

---

<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.

4. **Active Citizens' Initiative of the Year** will reward grassroots campaigns organised by both informal and formal groups of citizens, with a real and proven impact on community cohesion, and a high potential for driving transformative change.

### 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 2016 and 30 days prior to the launch date of the open call for nominations (1st March 2017). We will accept nominations from all current member 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 the following criteria:

- (1) **Media Campaign of the Year:** relevance of the initiative, impact and outreach, evidence of public attention/response, innovative feature, evidence of opinion or action-led change.
- (2) **Social Enterprise of the Year:** contribution to community well-being, response to a community need, sustainability, innovative feature, outreach and scale.
- (3) **Volunteer of the Year:** number of beneficiaries, contribution to the community well-being, duration and sustainability, innovative feature, measure and communication of impact.
- (4) **Active Citizens' Initiative of the Year:** relevance of the initiative, impact and outreach, evidence of public response/actions, innovative feature, communication.

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.

Organisations and/or individuals can only make one nomination for the Awards. Moreover, each initiative, organisation, activity cannot be nominated in more than one category.

### Article 4: Deadline for Nominations

The deadline for nominations is **31 March 2017**. The nomination form is available [here](#).

For more information regarding the European Citizenship Awards 2017 please contact Vladimir Sestovic ([vsestovic@civic-forum.eu](mailto:vsestovic@civic-forum.eu) // +33 1 80 05 18 96) or Rosalind Duignan-Pearson ([Rosalind.Duignan-Pearson@volunteermatters.org.uk](mailto:Rosalind.Duignan-Pearson@volunteermatters.org.uk) // +44 (0)20 3780 5878).

### Article 5: Selection Process

Following the nomination period (1-31 March 2017), 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 (10-24 April 2017; 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 TV
5. **Marina SARLI**, CONCORD Europe
6. **Andreas Schrank**, Gemeinsam leben & lernen in Europa, Volonteuropa Board Member

## Article 7: Awards

The winners in each of the four categories will be invited to an **Awards Gala** taking place on 5 November 2017 in Strasbourg, alongside the World Forum for Democracy.

In addition, the Award winners will be given the opportunity to present their initiatives, projects and achievements during the **Civil Society Days** organised by the European Economic and Social Committee in Brussels on 26-27/06/2017, the second edition of the **European Civic Academy** in Paris (29/09–1/10/2017) and at the **World Forum for Democracy**, taking place on 6-8 November 2017 in Strasbourg. The winners will also be invited for interviews within the European Civic Forum **Activizanship** Magazine and 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 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.