



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

PRESS RELEASE

European Public Sector Award – EPSA 2013

“From 230 Applications to 15 Nominees”

The European Institute of Public Administration (EIPA) is pleased to announce that the high-level EPSA 2013 Jury met on 25 September at EIPA Maastricht to reach the final selection of the 15 nominees (5 per administrative category: national, regional and local) of this year edition on *“Weathering the storm: Creative solutions in a time of crisis”*.

The 15 nominated projects come from nine countries and span sectors such as economic and urban development, sustainable development, justice and police, education and training, sports and youth, public health, social media, and human resources management. These 15 projects (see List of 15 Nominees attached!) are now running for the three EPSA 2013 award trophies as well as for the honourable mention for cross-border cooperation and the honourable mention for cross-administrative cooperation.

The three winners – one per administrative category – and the two honourable mentions will be announced during the Award Ceremony that will take place at the Provincial Government Buildings on the Meuse in Maastricht on **Wednesday 27 November 2013**. Among the high-level political personalities that have already confirmed their presence, we can mention *Mr Theo Bovens* (NL) Governor and King's Commissioner for the Province of Limburg. *Mr László Andor* (HU), Member of the European Commission responsible for Employment, Social Affairs and Inclusion has been invited and is expected to confirm his presence. Other high-level personalities will be attending too.

Keep checking our website (www.epsa2013.eu) for updates on the names of personalities and time schedules.

On the first day of this three-day event, in the evening of **Monday 25 November** at the Maastricht Town Hall, the EPSA 2013 Best Practice Certificates will be announced to the respective delegations by *Mr Alexander Heichlinger* (AT), Manager of EPSA, preceded by speeches by our host, the Mayor of Maastricht, *Onno Hoes*, and EIPA's Director-General, *Prof. Dr Marga Pröhl*.

On the second day, on **Tuesday 26 November**, during the morning plenary session before the parallel workshops, *Mr Peter Dröll* (DE), Head of the Innovation Unit, Responsible for the High-Level Group on Public Sector Innovation, DG Research and Innovation, European Commission, will introduce some EC initiatives to support and strengthen innovation in the Public Sector. Afterwards, *Mr Andoni Aldekoa* (ES), CEO,

Bilbao City Council (an EPSA 2011 winner), accompanied by the authors and city partners (all former EPSA recognised applicants) will present an EPSA publication by EIPA on public sector innovation at the practice front: *'In Search of Local Public Management Excellence – Seven Journeys to Success'*.

The three parallel workshops at EIPA, during which the 15 nominees will have the chance to present their respective achievements, will allow the EPSA 2013 creative solutions to be highlighted in terms of how the public sector “weathers the storm” by carrying out and delivering ambitious public modernisation projects in the current economic times. On the evening of the same day, a joint dinner at a location in Maastricht will bring together all the guests with a keynote dinner address by *Mr Guy Verhofstadt (BE)*, Chairman of EIPA's Board of Governors, President of the Alliance of Liberals and Democrats for Europe (ALDE), Former Prime Minister of Belgium. Mr Verhofstadt has been invited and we are awaiting his confirmation.

The prize winners and nominees will thus be presented during this three-day high-level final event and award ceremony in Maastricht (NL) from 25 until 27 November 2013 and all EPSA 2013 submitters are most welcome to attend this event and can register online.

The EPSA 2013 is an award for outstanding administrative performance across all levels of the public sector. For more information, forthcoming news and updates, and registration, please consult www.epsa2013.eu

Note for the editors

Maastricht (NL), 1st October 2013

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With the support of the City of Maastricht
and the Dutch Province of Limburg.

