



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

PRESS RELEASE

Official Launch of the European Public Sector Award - EPSA 2013, Brussels, 25 January 2013, EC Berlaymont Building

The European Public Sector Award (EPSA) organised for the third time by the European Institute of Public Administration, once again brings together the most innovative, efficient and best performers from the European public sector. Thirteen European partners are officially supporting the EPSA 2013 edition.

For all European public administrations, EPSA has generated highly valuable know-how and vital results that can be used to the benefit of providing innovative solutions and learning opportunities.

Europe – and in fact the entire world – is currently facing perhaps the deepest and most multiple-faceted financial and economic threat in recent history. The ‘old’ continent has a sovereign debt problem which, in combination with the global recession, has created a crisis in many EU countries. This crisis has to be resolved with the necessary and respective measures. However, how can these urgent problems linked to public financial pressure be resolved? This poses a true challenge, not only to private enterprises, but in particular to the public sector. Governments and their public administrations, not only as in recent years, but certainly also for the coming three to five years, will thus be under severe pressure with regard to their public finances and spending.

In other words, the only solution in this scenario seems to be to increase effectiveness and efficiency, to innovate, and to strive towards better and best practices.

The 2013 EPSA edition will be launched officially on 25 January 2013 at the EC Berlaymont building in Brussels, in cooperation with DG Employment, Social Affairs and Inclusion and DG Human Resources and Security of the European Commission. The welcome speech will be delivered by *Maroš Šefčovič*, Vice-President of the European Commission Responsible for Inter-Institutional Relations and Administration.

This launch activity, conducted in English, is the opportunity to *receive first-hand* all the detailed information about the scheme, the conditions for participation as well as the basic guidelines on how to apply and submit your public achievements for the EPSA 2013. The call for applications will also be opened on 25 January and will run until 12 April 2013. All relevant information can be found on the website: www.epsa2013.eu

EPSA Distinctive Features

Target: EPSA targets all sectors of public administration with emphasis on specific themes. All European public sector institutions from all levels, as well as public sector enterprises, agencies or public-private partnerships, are eligible to submit their projects for the award. The lead applicant – in any case - must be a public sector actor

Scope: EPSA awards projects which have proven their success and can show tangible results and sustainability.

Focus: EPSA focuses on recognition and spreading of good practice

EPSA 2013 Novel Features

Unlike in other editions, there is only one overarching theme for all applicants in the new EPSA 2013 edition: **“Weathering the storm – Creative solutions in a time of crisis.”** in which increased efficiency and effectiveness play a central role.

As this theme aims to be inclusive, EPSA 2013 will bestow awards in three categories: European/national, regional, and local – so good practice at all levels will be recognised and each public administration can compete against and compare itself with projects coming from the same level.

Additionally, two special recognitions will be awarded:

Honorary mention for successful projects resulting from cross-administrative cooperation

Honorary mention for successful projects resulting from cross-border cooperation

Note for the editors

Maastricht (NL), 12 December 2012

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Official Partners EPSA 2013:

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and the Province of Limburg.

