



European Public Sector Award – EPSA 2013: Showcasing and Rewarding European Public Excellence

Brussels (BE), 25 January 2013

In cooperation with DG Employment, Social Affairs and Inclusion and DG Human Resources and Security of the European Commission

INTRODUCTION

The European Public Sector Award (EPSA), organised for the third time by the European Institute of Public Administration (EIPA), 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. The final event & award ceremony will take place on 25-27 November 2013 in the City of Maastricht (NL), where the headquarters of EIPA are located.

The previous EPSA editions have been successful in generating valuable knowledge (e.g. an electronic knowledge and learning platform, currently containing almost 600 fully structured, completed and thoroughly assessed case studies across the seven topical thematic areas from the EPSA 2009 and 2011 schemes). EPSA thus continues to contribute to the progress of public performances by highlighting exemplary models of proactive public practices that address Europe's most pressing concerns, whilst providing a platform for the public sector innovators behind these cases to disseminate and transfer their achievements.

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?

Traditionally, it would be by economic growth and increased public income through taxes, in combination with budget cuts and austerity measures! (Strong) economic growth seems quite far away, but the pressure on public spending is still there due to demographic factors (cost of elderly care, decreasing workforce), unemployment, and expenses related to pensions, education and health. 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 vision of EPSA and EIPA is to create an arena in which Europe's public sector institutions can excel and become an exemplar for the rest of the world. The award contest is open to all levels of Europe's public administration.





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Based on this background, applicants can submit, and thus showcase their innovative achievements, in the following thematic field and award categories:

The EPSA 2013 THEME: “Weathering the storm – Creative solutions in a time of crisis”

In the past five years, public administrations across Europe have been facing mounting strain on their public finances. In turn, this has led to pressure for changes in the way public services are delivered, as well as a re-assessment of the scope and nature of services to be provided by public authorities, independently of how they are delivered. Yet, it is precisely in times of economic crisis that citizens have a greater need for public services.

In response to these pressures, public administrations are trying out innovative ways of problem-solving in service provision, by designing better processes, as well as through new structural solutions in cooperation with partners.

Some public authorities are responding well to the challenges of the crisis with measures targeting effectiveness, efficiency and productivity gains, whilst trying to maintain the high level and quality of their operations. This theme will give them the chance to be proud of their achievements and to showcase how they are dealing with these tough challenges.

Outcomes that need to be demonstrated

Successful cases could, for example, demonstrate one or more of following outcomes:

- improved quality or volume of service delivery at the same or lower cost;
- maintained service delivery at a lower cost;
- delivery of higher levels of service standards at a proportionately lower level of cost increase;
- achievement of sustainable debt/deficit levels;
- achievement of wider citizen involvement in decisions;
- high economic and/or financial returns from public investment or high levels of private investment levered by well-directed public investment.

Equally, cases could demonstrate structural or process changes, leading to successful outcomes such as:

- re-organisation or relocation of services (e.g. mergers, centralisation or decentralisation);
- changes to service methods (e.g. from internal to external service delivery, between different types of external service delivery, public-public cooperation (including shared services), cooperation between the public sector and civil society or public-private partnership for new or upgraded infrastructure);
- different ownership models (e.g. use of mixed capital entities or privatisation);
- better external or internal communication;
- blending use of new technologies;
- using social media more effectively;
- more effective procurement.

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Different levels and forms of cooperation

There are also different dimensions, within which success can be demonstrated, such as, in particular:

- between different levels of public administration within a Member State or between different Member States;
- between different regions/municipalities in the same or different Member States;
- public sector-to-business, or public sector-to-citizen interaction;
- by the public sector acting as a platform for business-to-business collaboration or citizen-to-citizen collaboration;
- by the empowerment of communities by a public administration.

The above is merely indicative and allows for many different ways for public administrations to celebrate their achievements.

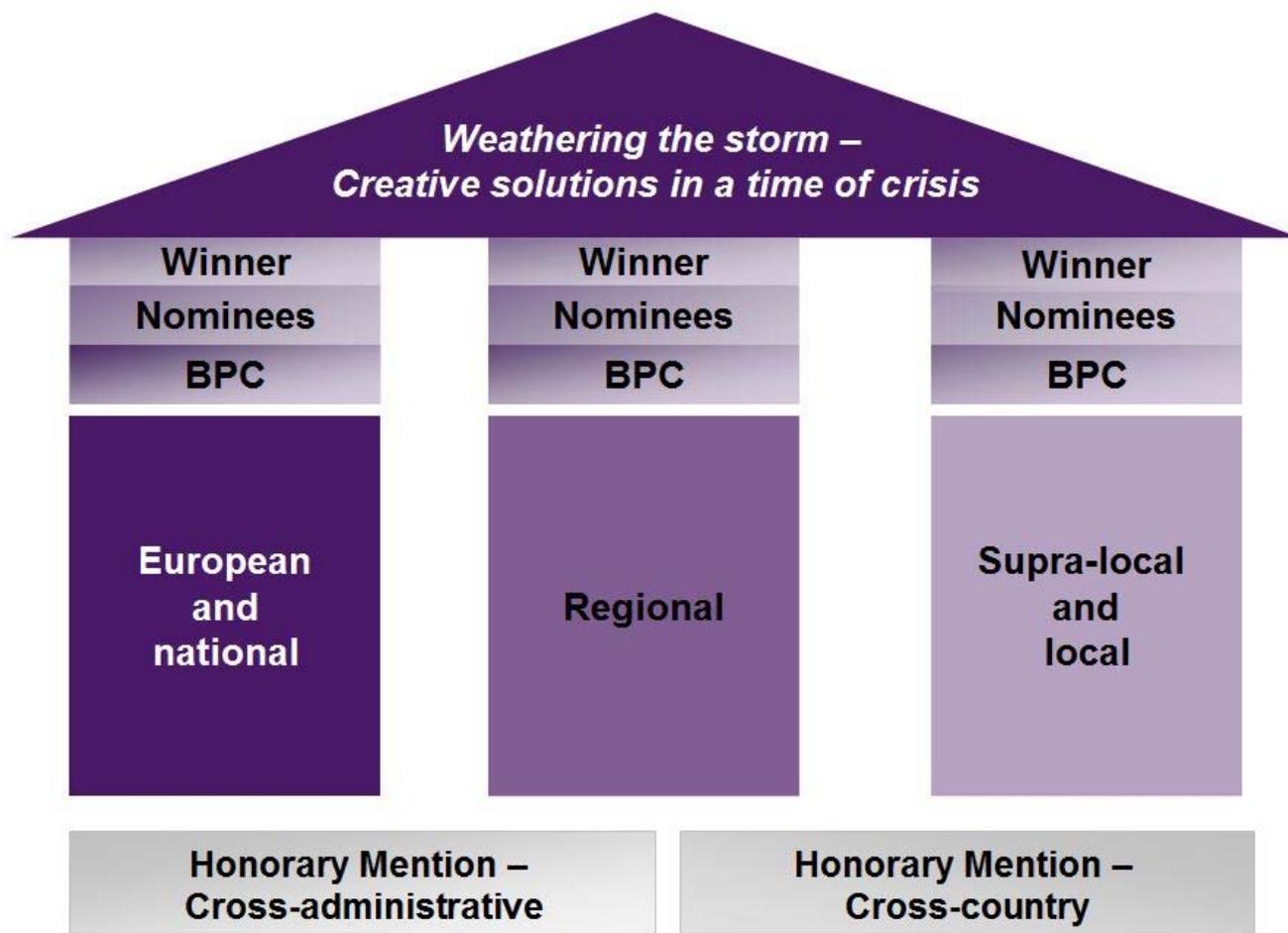


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The EPSA 2013 AWARD CATEGORIES

All levels of public administration will be rewarded since the theme aims to be inclusive. Therefore, EPSA 2013 will bestow awards in three categories: European/national, regional, and local (see below) – so good practice at all levels will be recognised, underlining the importance of coherent actions at all levels of public administration in this overarching thematic area. In addition, successful projects resulting from cross-border or cross-administrative cooperation will also be identified and receive special recognition.



This launch activity 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**.

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The launch event will be conducted in the official working language of EPSA, i.e. English. All participants will also receive a copy of the EPSA 2011 Research publication on EPSA Trends in Practice.



EPSA 2013 is supported by 13 official partners: the European Commission (DG Employment and DG Human Resources), Austria, Denmark, Germany, Hungary, Italy, Luxembourg, the Netherlands, Norway, Poland and Switzerland, as well as the City of Maastricht and the Dutch Province of Limburg.



European Commission



Austria



Luxembourg



Denmark



the Netherlands



Germany



Norway



Hungary



Poland



Italy



Switzerland



Gemeente Maastricht

provincie limburg





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**Venue: EC Berlaymont Building
Rue de la Loi 200, 1040 Brussels (BE)
Room Walter Hallstein (first floor)**

PROGRAMME

FRIDAY 25 JANUARY 2013

- 09.00 **Registration of participants and distribution of EPSA 2013 information kit**
- 09.30 **Opening address and welcome of participants**
Maroš Šefčovič (SK), Vice-President of the European Commission Responsible for Inter-Institutional Relations and Administration, Brussels
Marga Pröhl (DE), Director-General, EIPA, Maastricht
- Presentation of EPSA: vision, objective, institutional structure, final event & award ceremony**
Marga Pröhl
- 10.30 **A testimony from an award winning EPSA experience: the project “Political Management based on Economic Stringency and Strategic Budgets”, from the Bilbao City Council**
Ibone Bengoetxea (ES), Deputy Mayor, City Councillor for Culture and Education, Bilbao City Council
- 11.00 Coffee break
- 11.30 **The EPSA 2013: roadmap, deliveries, the theme and award categories**
Alexander Heichlinger (AT), EIPA Expert & Manager EPSA, EIPA Barcelona
Michael Burnett (UK), Expert, EIPA Maastricht
- 12.00 **How to apply for EPSA 2013: practical information on application period, good reasons for participation, eligibility criteria, evaluation procedure and methodology, InfoDays, etc.**
Alexander Heichlinger
- 12.15 **Live demonstration of the online submission process**
Claude Rongione (IT), EPSA Information Officer, EIPA Maastricht
- 12.30 **Announcement of the EPSA eKnowledge platform project**
Claude Rongione
- 12.45 **Closing address and end of the event**
Rory Montgomery (IE), Permanent Representative of Ireland to the European Union

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REGISTRATION FORM

Surname: _____ Title: _____
First name: _____ M / F
Current position: _____
Organisation: _____
Department: _____
Work address: _____
Postal code & Town: _____ Country: _____
Tel. No (work): _____ Fax no.: _____
E-mail address: _____

Participation in the launch event is FREE OF CHARGE

Registration can be done online before 15 January 2013. You can also download the registration form and send the completed version as an e-mail attachment to Ms Nicolette Brouwers: n.brouwers@eipa.eu. You can also send it for her attention by fax number: +31 43 32 96 296.

Please return the completed registration form via fax or email before Tuesday 15 January 2013 to:

Ms Nicolette Brouwers
Programme Organiser

European Institute of Public Administration (EIPA)
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P.O. Box 1229
NL-6201 BE Maastricht
Tel.: +31 43 32 96 245
Fax: +31 43 32 96 296
E-mail: epsa2013@eipa.eu / n.brouwers@eipa.eu
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IMPORTANT: At the entrance (before the security access) participants will have to present their personal ID document as well as the invitation form.



Your name and address will be part of EIPA's database for our mailing purpose only. Please tick if you do not want to be included in our mailing database.

www.epsa2013.eu

