



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

## PRESS RELEASE

*European Public Sector Award – EPISA 2013 Award Ceremony*

**Five projects from all corners of Europe (Italy, Finland, Poland, Luxembourg and Spain) awarded this morning in Maastricht during the EPISA 2013 Award Ceremony!**

During a well-attended and entertaining award ceremony which took place this morning at the Provincial Government House in Maastricht, the European Institute of Public Administration handed over the European Public Sector Award 2013 to the 3 winning projects as well as two honourable mentions, one for cross-border cooperation, and one for cross-administrative cooperation. This prestigious award recognises the best and most innovative performers in public administrations across Europe. Over 160 guests from more than 20 European countries participated in the range of EPISA 2013 events held in Maastricht on 25-27 November 2013.

The winners in the three administrative categories are:

In the *European and National administrative category*, the first prize went to the project “**The Compass of Transparency**” submitted by the Italian Department for Public Administration. With this project, Italy showed how monitoring of public administrations websites can help fight against corruption and lead to more transparency, while enabling citizens to keep an eye on how public administrations comply with their legal obligations. This project is a perfect system of checks and balances: citizens are empowered by actively checking and expressing their opinion – online – and thus exercise control on the public administration. This will result in continuous improvement and better performance of public administration.

The Finnish project “**Development of Wellbeing and Civil Safety in Municipalities**” submitted by the Regional State Administrative Agency for Lapland received the first prize in the *Regional administrative category*. This project addresses successfully the challenges of stable rural development and wellbeing of citizens in a context where the resources allocated to healthcare and wellbeing are decreasing, which is a great challenge for all European regions. It is high in innovation as it goes significantly beyond the silo mentality of public administrations by applying a cross-functional and cross-sectoral approach.

The award trophy in the *Supra-local and Local administrative category* went to the Polish project: **Educational and Promotional Campaign “Bielsko-Biała Protects the Climate”** submitted by the city of Bielsko-Biała. This project is a role model in Europe for many cities committed to the Europe 2020 environmental objectives of reducing CO2 emissions and realising energy savings. The energy saving results are: energy efficiency savings for the city of over €925.000 in 2012; overall energy savings reached were over 7.6 million kilowatt-hour (kWh) and the ecologic effect related to energy savings is 3.9 million kg of CO2. These achievements are based on a very extensive network involving more than 50 social groups (social media, schools, businesses, teachers and pupils, etc.) as well as famous people from culture, sports, etc. called ‘Climate Ambassadors’.

The *Honourable Mention for Cross-border cooperation* was awarded to the project submitted by the Municipality of Esch-sur-Alzette, Luxembourg, for the project called **“The Creation of a New Economic Zone in Southern Luxembourg: Efficient Urban Planning and Social Integration through Cross-municipal, Cross-border and Cross-sectoral Cooperation”**. This project is an innovative cross-border initiative which gives a boost to urban economic development with a strategic and holistic approach. It distinguishes itself by its novel cross-municipal and cross-border economic development perspective in order to revitalise the Belval area, a former district of the steel industry and now industrial wasteland. The project is clearly supported by neighbouring communities and local stakeholders across the French border and by the national authorities in Luxembourg.

Last but not least, the *Honourable mention for Cross-administrative cooperation* went to the project **Andalusian Health e-Library** submitted by the Regional Government of Andalusia, Spain. The virtual Andalusian health library is currently the biggest electronic health science resource database in Spain and a powerful knowledge sharing platform. The programme is precisely designed to be at the service of the real need of health professionals in the field. It is an excellent example of cross-administrative thinking and partnership serving as a centre for information and scientific documentation for 41 hospitals, 1500 primary care centres and 28 centres for non-medical purposes.

More information as well as pictures and all project presentations will be available online early December. Keep checking our website [www.epsa2013.eu](http://www.epsa2013.eu)

Follow us on Twitter and Facebook.

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](http://www.epsa2013.eu)

---

### Note for the editors

Maastricht (NL), 27 November 2013

Contact address EPSA Team:

Mr Claude Rongione, Information Officer EPSA 2013  
European Institute of Public Administration,  
tel.: +31 (0)43 32 96 278; email: [epsa2013@eipa.eu](mailto:epsa2013@eipa.eu)  
[www.epsa2013.eu](http://www.epsa2013.eu)

#### *Official Partners EPSA 2013*

European Commission Austria Denmark Germany Hungary Italy	Luxembourg The Netherlands Norway Poland Switzerland
--	--

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

