

AWARDS TO RECOGNISE POLITICAL INNOVATION

Now in its third year, the Innovation in Politics Awards 2019 will highlight new and inspiring projects that have made an impact at local, regional and national levels across Europe.

Established in 2017 by the Vienna-based Innovation in Politics Institute, the Awards provide an opportunity to acknowledge politicians who are making a difference and to highlight Irish innovation to the rest of Europe.

Partnered in Ireland by the School of Law and Government at Dublin City University (DCU), the Innovation in Politics Awards will again aim to identify and promote innovative political decision-making, having a real and positive difference to people and communities in Ireland, according to Dr Deiric O’Broin, from DCU’s School of Law and Government.

“Political courage and vision are often required to make things happen that result in effective solutions to issues at a local, regional, national or international level. It’s important to showcase examples of good politics, even more so when trust in politics needs rebuilding,” he added.

Ronny Zuckermann, co-founder of the Innovation in Politics Institute, noted: “The Awards provide a platform to inspire people about the value of democracy and politics.

“They promote exceptional efforts of politicians to work towards strengthening European values and better social balance, and engage people to be involved in decision-making that affects them and their communities.”

For more information:

Joan O’Flynn, Ireland Representative of Innovation in Politics Institute on 087-9051514; email jf@innovationinpolitics.eu or visit www.innovationinpolitics.eu

THE INNOVATION IN POLITICS AWARDS

Anyone in Ireland can nominate a local councillor, TD, Senator or MEP or a group of politicians for an award. Any politician can also submit an innovative project in one of the following eight categories:

1. Human Rights, 2. Democracy, 3. Community, 4. Ecology, 5. Civilisation,
6. Prosperity, 7. Jobs, 8. Quality of life



A politician or group of politicians must have played a key role in making a project possible, and all projects must meet at least one of the following additional criteria – participation, building trust or sustainability.

Projects must have been financed (at least partially) by public funds, had a substantial impact on the lives of people and be in agreement with the Universal Declaration of Human Rights. Projects which are not legible for entry include communication campaigns, events, scientific studies and projects currently at the planning stage.

The Innovation in Politics Awards will be presented at a Europe-wide gala event in Berlin on 4 December 2019.



The 2019 awards ceremony will be held in Berlin, as announced at the closing ceremony in Vienna City Hall last November by Edward Strasser, co-founder of the Innovation in Politics Institute.

IRELAND'S FINALISTS FOR 2017 & 2018 NATIONAL, REGIONAL AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT LEVELS

Quality of Life

* DUBLIN BIKES

(FINALIST 2018) **Dublinbikes**: one of the world's most successful bike sharing schemes, providing green, healthy and accessible transport for the masses



*PEACE LINK - BUILDING RELATIONS THROUGH SPORT

(FINALIST 2018) **Community building through sports**: a sports facility on the border that focuses on building peaceful relations, devised by Monaghan County Council



Prosperity

*ATLANTIC ECONOMIC CORRIDOR

(FINALIST 2018) **Creating economic prosperity**: an initiative designed to promote investment, living, and learning within the Atlantic corridor region



*WATERFORD GREENWAY

(FINALIST 2018) **Encouraging tourism**: a 42km hiking trail built along a disused railway line from Waterford to Dungarvan, rolled out by Waterford City and County Council



Jobs

PROTECTION FOR FREELANCE WORKERS

(FINALIST 2018) **Pioneering legislation on workers' rights**: a law that gives freelance workers the right to be collectively represented by trade unions



Human Rights

* LEGISLATION & POLICY TO PROTECT VICTIMS AND TACKLE VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN AND DOMESTIC VIOLENCE

(FINALIST 2018) **Stopping gender-based violence**: ground-breaking Irish legislation that grants protection for women against domestic violence



*IRELAND'S LGBTI+ YOUTH STRATEGY

(FINALIST 2018) **LGBTI+ at the forefront**: an Irish strategy to improve the lives of LGBTI+ young people, and to understand the challenges they face



Community

DUNMANWAY COMMUNITY GARDEN

(FINALIST 2018) **Growing together**: a community garden in Dunmanway, Co. Cork that aims to be inclusive for all people



Democracy

300K - HAVE YOUR SAY - PARTICIPATORY BUDGETING

(FINALIST 2018) **Giving citizens a say**: citizens voting to allocate a portion of South Dublin County Council's budget for projects designed and submitted by citizens



Human Rights

MARRIAGE EQUALITY

(FINALIST 2017) **Same-sex marriage**: introducing a controversial measure by referendum



Democracy

IRISH CONSTITUTIONAL CONVENTION 2013

(FINALIST 2017) **Deliberative democracy**: a Constitutional Convention with two-thirds ordinary citizens

