

ENTRIES OPEN FOR INNOVATIVE POLITICAL PROJECTS

Politicians from Ireland and all over Europe are now invited by the Innovation in Politics Institute to submit their political projects, for this year's Innovation in Politics Awards, before the deadline date of 1 July.



Citizens across Europe can nominate projects across nine different categories, or alternatively politicians can submit their own projects for the fifth Innovation in Politics Awards, before the closing date of 1 July.

Politics at a local, regional and national level is still struggling to come to terms with the Covid-19 pandemic and its consequences. And for this reason, the category of 'Covid-19 Strategies', which was first introduced in 2020, will be retained this year.

The other eight categories are Community, Democracy, Digitalisation, Ecology, Economy, Education, Human Rights, and Quality of Life. All submissions will be assessed by a Europe-wide jury of 1,000 citizens, who will then select the winning projects across these nine categories.

Certain criteria must be met before a project is eligible for entry. For example, at least one elected politician must have been involved in the project (e.g. member of the steering committee/SPC). The budget must have been provided from their local authority, in addition to providing support for the project's financing or staffing, and political support.

The project must have been initiated within last five years, and at least partially funded by public funding. It also needs to show that it has made a difference to the

community and finally the project needs to uphold UN Declaration of Human Rights.

In each category, the ten projects with the highest jury ratings will be short-listed. The nine winners will receive one of the coveted trophies and will be announced at a special awards ceremony in December.

PREVIOUS IRISH FINALISTS

A total of 24 Irish projects have been short-listed, since the awards were launched in 2017, putting creative politicians and political decision-making centre stage.

Ireland has yet to register a winning project, so perhaps this year will be the one to change all of that! In the meantime, the following is a snapshot of previous Irish finalists:

- Longford Nua Regeneration and Community Engagement (Longford Municipal District)
- Athboy Walkability and Inclusive Town Development (Meath County Council)
- Moyross Training at the Bays (Limerick City Council)
- Voter Participation (Monaghan County Council)
- The Vision Symphony (Clare County Council)
- Our Balbriggan Rejuvenation Project (Fingal County Council)

- Age Friendly Housing Technical Specialists (Meath County Council)
- Natural Play Space Programme (South Dublin Council)

FLAGSHIP POLITICAL PROJECTS

Overall, more than 1,600 political projects have been submitted to The Innovation in Politics Awards since 2017. Over 4,000 European citizens have acted as jurors, selecting a total of 33 winners from 330 finalists. Germany currently leads the way with six winning projects, followed by France (five), the UK (four) and Poland (three).

These 33 examples of best practice can be viewed in the virtual showroom <https://innovationinpolitics.eu/showroom/>. The aim is to encourage the exchange of ideas across Europe, with a view to promoting the cross-border development of innovative policies.

For further information contact Joan O'Flynn, Ireland Representative, e-mail jf@innovationinpolitics.eu or visit <https://innovationinpolitics.eu/awards>

ABOUT THE INNOVATION IN POLITICS INSTITUTE

Dublin City University's School of Law and Government is the Irish partner of the Innovation in Politics Institute – an international, non-governmental organisation that identifies, develops and implements innovation in politics in order to strengthen democracy in Europe and beyond.

The Institute is a Europe-wide network of offices and partner organisations across 21 European countries (Austria, Belgium, Bulgaria, Estonia, Finland, France, Germany, Greece, Ireland, Italy, Latvia, Lebanon, Lithuania, Luxembourg, the Netherlands, Poland, Slovakia, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland and the UK).