

## ECAS AWARDS 2020 - AWARDS FOR THE MOST MOBILE EU CITIZEN-FRIENDLY LOCATION



### Hosts Open to Mobile European Citizens

*Are you representing a city or a region that has introduced policies or practices aimed at enhancing freedom of movement or political participation in the EU? Is your city promoting social, cultural or political inclusion of EU mobile citizens?*

*Apply for the ECAS Award for the most mobile EU citizens-friendly location!*

## RULES OF CONTEST

### 1. Background

Once the coronavirus outbreak which has resulted in a temporary suspension of the freedom of movement in the European Union subsides, citizens and member states, EU institutions and civil society will have the task to restore this greatest legacy of European integration. With that goal in mind, the ECAS Awards scheme is being launched for the first time to promote practices and initiatives that aim at fostering inclusion of and provision of information to mobile EU citizens.

Freedom of movement is one of the most cherished achievements of the European integration. There are around 17.5 million EU citizens residing in an EU country other than their own. They decide to move to another EU country for work, studies or to enjoy their retirement. Once they arrive, they often struggle to get their residence documents on time, to find work or to access healthcare. They are also often insufficiently aware of their political rights or face obstacles when they want to make their voices heard in the local or EU elections. Most recently, of course, they share the faith of all Europeans in contributing to the flattening of the COVID-19 curve while often separated from their close ones by closed borders.

The aim of ECAS Awards is to recognize cities' and regions' efforts to overcome those obstacles, enhance freedom of movement in the EU and foster inclusion of mobile EU citizens.

The first edition of the ECAS Awards is piloted under the *Mobility and Political Rights Enhancement for EU Citizens (MORE for EU Citizens)* project that aims to tackle the challenges experienced by EU mobile citizens, in particular those affecting their rights to family reunification and political participation.

### 2. Categories

The proposed practice/initiative/activity can be submitted under the following categories:

- Practices aimed at alleviating the effects of the COVID-19 outbreak on mobile EU citizen
- Practices aimed at improving entry and residence rights of mobile EU citizens;
- Practices aimed at improving social and cultural inclusion of mobile EU citizens;
- Practices aimed at improving political inclusion of mobile EU citizens.

### 3. Eligibility criteria

The contest is open to all EU cities and/or regions/affiliated entities independently of their size and the number of EU mobile citizens they host.

Eligible applicants encompass:

- Municipalities and/or cities in the European Union;
- Regions in the European Union;
- Associations, civil society organisations and initiatives founded before the deadline for applications which can provide a partnership agreement with one of the two categories above (It is required to upload a document testifying to this in the application).

The proposed practice/initiative/activity is expected to directly target/involve/benefit mobile EU citizens and should have commenced within maximum two years before the deadline for applications.

### 4. Award criteria

In the short description section of the application form, the applicant should demonstrate that the proposed practice/initiative/activity tangibly helps achieve the objectives spelled out in the background section of this document. Furthermore, the application should explicitly address the following criteria in the designated section of the application form:

- **Effectiveness:** Did the practice work and achieve results that are measurable?
- **Impact:** Did the practice reach the envisaged goals?
- **Involvement of mobile EU citizens:** Did the practice involve the target group in the implementation phase?
- **Transferability:** Can the practice be transferred/replicated in another context/city/region?
- **Quality and sustainability of results:** Will the activity continue on a regular basis, will the outcomes be sustained?<sup>1</sup>

### 5. Application submission and deadline

The application form is available at the following [link](#). The deadline for submissions is **23:59 CET on 10 July 2020** - the date commemorating when the Convention on the Future of Europe completed its work on the draft European Constitution, which first contained the rights European citizens are now entitled to in the Lisbon Treaty. Only applications submitted before the deadline will be considered. Only applications submitted before that will be considered.

---

<sup>1</sup>This last criterion does not apply to the first category thematizing the practices related to the COVID-19 outbreak because of their temporary character.

## 6. Evaluation procedure

The evaluation of submitted applications will take place in two stages. Firstly, all submitted practices will be assessed by a jury comprised of one representative from: (a) the Council of European Municipalities and Regions, (b) the European Association for Local Democracy (ALDA), and the European Citizen Action Service (ECAS). Secondly, once the jury has shortlisted 12 best applications (July 2020), mobile EU citizens will be invited to vote for the top three through a dedicated crowdsourcing platform (July-October 2020). The best initiative will be announced in October 2020. The winner will be invited to and awarded during the ECAS conference in November 2020.

## 7. Award

The aim of ECAS Awards is to recognize cities' and regions' efforts to overcome obstacles towards the inclusion of mobile EU citizens and enhance the freedom of movement in the EU. Therefore, the award should stimulate the applicants to continue their efforts and provide transnational visibility to their achievements so that these could serve as an inspiration to others. With these goals in mind, the ECAS Award 2020 will, in addition to the certificate include:

- **A financial award in the amount of 300 euros;**
- ECAS will co-produce a short video reportage with the winners in each of the four categories **about the awarded practice/initiative/activity**. The video should be produced in the month between the announcement of the winners and the award ceremony in Brussels and **will be displayed during the latter**. The details about the format will be specified in the award letter.
- **An article about each awarded initiative** to be featured on the website of ECAS and its media partner;
- **Travel to/from Brussels and accommodation costs for the representative of the top four localities in order for them to attend the Award ceremony and receive the award (estimated costs 200 euros per representative);**
- **Meeting with the representatives of the Citizenship Unit in the European Commission in order to inform them about the practices and discuss ways of their popularisation in the EU**