1st Atlantic Project Awards 2016

Application Procedure

GUIDELINES FOR PROJECT PROMOTERS

Introduction

This year's Atlantic Project Awards are designed to honour outstanding success stories, achieved by projects in the geographical area covered by the Atlantic Strategy and that are related to the implementation of the Atlantic Action Plan. The Atlantic Project Awards will showcase and promote the individual winners and at the same time highlight the incorporation and scaling up of best practices at regional and national levels.

The Atlantic Project Awards will strive to make the Atlantic Strategy more visible to the general public, while promoting the key priorities of related Atlantic Action Plan and achievements across the Member States covered by the Atlantic Strategy.

The guidelines below provide background, guidance and practical information to stakeholders interested in applying for an Atlantic Project Award, which will be handed out at the 3rd Atlantic Stakeholder Platform Conference.

Atlantic Project Awards – The categories

Awards will be bestowed on projects in each of the following 4 categories:

- o Entrepreneurship & innovation
- o Atlantic Marine and coastal environment
- o Accessibility and connectivity
- o Sustainability

- A Special Award will be announced for the following category
  - o International Cooperation (Proposals to be considered for the "International Cooperation" Category will need to demonstrate alignment to the principles of the Galway Statement and exhibit outcomes that support the Blue Economy on a transatlantic basis).

Atlantic Project Awards – Who can apply?

The Atlantic Project Awards will be granted to **5 projects** (1 winner in each of the 5 categories below) that come under the umbrella of the Atlantic Strategy and Action Plan Priorities, as recognition of outstanding performance in relevant areas/sectors. Furthermore, the Awards aim to further raise visibility for both Atlantic Strategy and the Action Plan.

Applicants can be professionals (individuals), entrepreneurs, organisations, centres of excellence/research institutions, associations and NGO's, who are residents of one of the EU Member States covered by the Atlantic Strategy (France, Ireland, UK, Portugal and Spain). The project itself has to be implemented in the geographical area covered by the Atlantic Strategy.

A dedicated online application section www.atlanticstrategy.eu/pt/news-and-events/events/atlantic-project-awards-call-submission allows interested project holders to submit their participation along with a brief introduction of their project (entry criteria, short project description, outcomes achieved, relevance to Atlantic Strategy, etc.).

This section will also detail further information for the participants regarding the submission (procedure and criteria, jury profiles, categories, and a helpdesk section). The application process is available only in English to make the evaluation of the applications by the jury as straightforward as possible.

Additional information and support for the submission of projects can be provided by the Central Support Team through the dedicated helpdesk service (email: helpdesk@atlanticstrategy.eu, tel.: +32 2 235 20 50) and by the National Unit offices in each Member State[1].

The Atlantic Project Awards section can be accessed through www.atlanticstrategy.eu/pt/news-and-events/events/atlantic-project-awards-call-submission and completed through the online form.

The schedule of the "Atlantic Project Awards" is the following:

- Launch of the Awards & online Application open (29/04/2016)
- Extension of the call for international category (28/07/2016)
- Closing of online Application (11/08/2016)
- Evaluation process: Start date 12/08/2016, Completion date: 26/08/2016
- Announcement of Awards Ceremony, an integral part of the Atlantic Stakeholder Conference[2] (27/09/2016)

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[1] http://www.atlanticstrategy.eu/en/contact/the-support-team
[2] http://www.atlanticstrategy.eu/en/news-and-events/news/atlantic-stakeholder-conference-dublin-ireland

Type of Projects

Atlantic Project Awards will showcase **projects** (in progress or completed) or initiatives (and not "ideas", single individuals, entrepreneurs or organisations) and in this context a **project** is recognised as a group of tasks, actions, activities carried out by a consortium or a grouping within the framework of a larger and longer collaboration. **EU funded projects** (local, regional, national, or on a European scale) that have been delivered, or are being delivered inside the Atlantic Strategy geographical area.

Any project initiated and/or completed during the 24 months prior to the announcement of the call for entries will be eligible to submit for an award. Regarding submitted projects that are in progress, significant project activity must have been delivered during that time frame; it should be noted that it is not required for the whole project to have been fully implemented during the abovementioned period of time.

Completing the Application

General contact details about the entrant(s) and the organisation they represent:

- Name of your organisation **(Mandatory field)**: Legal/commercial name of the organisation should be provided.
- Website of your project or organisation **(Optional field)**: Link to project's / organisation's website (if available) should be provided.
- Type of organisation **(Mandatory field)**: Please select appropriate type from menu. In case appropriate type is not listed, please fill in under "Other".
  - Entrepreneurs,
  - Companies,
  - Public bodies,
  - Universities /research institutions,
  - Associations,
  - NGO's,
  - Individuals,
  - Other
- Title, First & Last Name, E-mail, Telephone Number **(Mandatory fields)**: Please provide with all the requested information of the project's responsible Contact Person.

The key elements of the project:

1. Title **(Mandatory field)**
2. Short summary of the project **(Mandatory field) -** (maximum length of 1500 characters (including spacing and punctuation),
3. Time frame/duration of the project, including Start and End dates **(Mandatory field)**,

4. Budget in Euro (**Optional field** but will play a major role in helping the jury assess the project. The information will not be distributed publicly),
5. Number of people working on the project (including independent workers or volunteers) **(Mandatory field)**,
6. A project description must be provided (maximum length of 400 characters - including spacing and punctuation - for each of the following fields), including the following information:

   a. What are the project objectives?
   b. How was/is the project implemented?
   c. What is the best practice that is demonstrated by this project?
   d. What are the results achieved to date?
   e. How can the aforementioned results be transferred to other organisations or sub-regions/regions/member states?
   f. What future development activity is planned for the project?

(Mandatory fields)

Please identify the project's relevance with the Atlantic Action Plan key priorities.
(Mandatory field)

1. **Priority 1:** Promote entrepreneurship and innovation

2. **Priority 2:** Protect, secure and develop the potential of the Atlantic marine and coastal environment

3. **Priority 3:** Improve accessibility and connectivity

4. **Priority 4:** Create a socially inclusive and sustainable model of regional development

7. Please upload one image (Max size 2MB) that best represents the project
(Optional field)

8. Please upload up to three links to websites, social media platforms, intranet sites or online videos.
   Website links could also feature relevant publications, brochures, press releases or reports.
   (Optional field)

Atlantic Project Awards – The judging process & Jury

The applicants will be judged according to the relevance of the given project to a set of criteria. The jury will review all applications and score each entry against strategy, innovation, implementation, results and relevance for the Atlantic Action Plan Priorities. There will be one winner per category.

The jury will comprise 6 judges and will include representatives from the EU Commission (e.g. DG RTD, DG MARE & EASME), members of the Atlantic Strategy Group[3], representatives from academia and research organisations, and a representative from business or industry.

The selected applicants will be informed via email and they will be invited to attend and receive their trophies at the Awards Ceremony, which will be held as part of the 3rd Atlantic Stakeholder Conference (Dublin, Ireland - 27 September 2016).

The Awards trophy

An award trophy will be offered to the winners, and certificates of merits awarded for short-listed projects. Additionally, short promotional videos will be produced for each awarded project and will be disseminated through the "Support Team for the Atlantic Action Plan" communication channels.

The winners will also be recognised by general media coverage.

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[3] The Atlantic Strategy Group (ASG) provides high level guidance and stewardship for the implementation and monitoring of the Atlantic Strategy and the Atlantic Action Plan. It is composed of representatives of the five Atlantic Member States and of the European Institutions.