

THE EUROPE PRIZE



The top European award
for towns and municipalities



Parliamentary Assembly
Assemblée parlementaire

COUNCIL OF EUROPE



CONSEIL DE L'EUROPE



ABOUT THE EUROPE PRIZE

ORIGINS

” The Europe Prize was created in **1955** by the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe (PACE) in Strasbourg to reward towns and municipalities that have been especially active in promoting the European ideal.

HOW IT DEVELOPED

— Awarded each year, the Europe Prize is open to the municipalities of the Council of Europe’s 47 member States, regardless of their size and number of inhabitants.

- ▶ It was an instant success in the years following the **Second World War**, with numerous French and German towns and municipalities applying in order to consolidate new bonds of friendship after the events of the past.
- ▶ In the **1990s**, new countries joined the Council of Europe in the wake of change in eastern Europe, enabling more towns to apply for the Europe Prize.
- ▶ The Europe Prize has constantly gained in popularity **over the years**, inspiring both small municipalities and big cities and involving many European countries.



ITS AIMS

— The Europe Prize is awarded to towns and municipalities distinguishing themselves through their commitment to Europe, twinning activities, exchanges in the spheres of education, culture and sport, organisation of European events, membership of organisations of municipalities or local authorities and solidarity initiatives.

- ▶ It helps towns and municipalities to become more **visible on the European scene** and forge **new links** with other municipalities.
- ▶ The winners also receive a **cheque for 20 000 euros**, making it possible for numerous young people to visit the European institutions in Strasbourg.

HOW IT WORKS

— Each town or municipality looking to win the Europe Prize must apply successively for the following awards (listed from lowest to highest level):

1. The European Diploma
2. The Flag of Honour
3. The Plaque of Honour
4. The Europe Prize

REMINDER: the Council of Europe and the European Union

Council of Europe

This international organisation set up in 1949, with its headquarters in Strasbourg, brings together 47 European States. Its mission is to promote democracy and safeguard human rights and the rule of law in Europe.

European Union (EU)

The EU has 28 member countries which have delegated part of their sovereignty to it so that it can take democratic decisions at European level on matters of common interest. To date, no country has joined the Union without first being a member of the Council of Europe.



THE EUROPE PRIZE TODAY

■ In June 2015, the 60th anniversary of the Europe Prize was celebrated in Strasbourg with a host of parliamentarians and representatives of prizewinning towns and municipalities in attendance.

■ The Europe Prize has moved with the times and its procedures have been simplified to boost its profile.

- ▶ Towns and municipalities now apply online, and the number of criteria has been reduced to four.
- ▶ The Europe Prize is gaining in popularity and becoming known in new countries.

The Association of Towns awarded the Europe Prize:

Set up in 1984, this association, with its current membership of almost 80 Europe Prize-winning towns and municipalities, meets at least twice a year. Chaired by one of the prizewinners, it forms a real platform for

discussion, debate and exchanges of good practices for municipalities, covering a wide range of topics: youth, education, migrants, social rights, public transport, climate change, renewable energies, etc.

PHASES

15 January

Deadline
for the receipt
of applications



End of April

Announcement
of the winners



May to December

Presentation
Ceremonies

HOW TO BECOME THE NEXT WINNER OF THE EUROPE PRIZE

Who can apply?

- ▶ Any of the municipalities in the Council of Europe's 47 member States.

How to apply

- ▶ **Only online.**
- ▶ Each municipality has to enclose a letter from the mayor and a **report**, which may be supplemented by press articles. The report must cover the **4 criteria**:



twinning activities, relations with foreign municipalities, co-operation and partnerships;



European events, Europe Day (5 May) and promotion of the European ideal;



European and international solidarity;



membership of local authority associations.

Deadline

- ▶ The online application form must be filled in and sent by 15 January.

How to apply for a higher award

- ▶ After winning an award, a municipality can then apply for the award at the next level. To do so, it must demonstrate a progressive level of European commitment.





AFTER THE WINNERS ARE ANNOUNCED

European Diploma

Winners are invited to take part in the **award ceremony** in Strasbourg in **June**.

Flag of Honour or Plaque of Honour

Winners organise a **public ceremony** actively involving young people, at which the award is presented by an (honorary) member of the PACE.

Europe Prize

The winner receives a cheque for **20 000 euros** for the town's young people during a **public ceremony** by the Sub-Committee on the Europe Prize.



What the Europe Prize can do for you!

The Europe Prize can help your town or municipality become known and forge lasting links with other European municipalities. Check out the map of Europe on our webpage to see if your town is a winner.



www.assembly.coe.int/europe-prize/winners.asp



2018 Europe Prizewinner

Mr Ruslan Martsinkiv, mayor of Ivano-Frankivsk (Ukraine)

— Your city, Ivano-Frankivsk, was awarded the 2018 Europe Prize. Why is this award especially important for Ivano-Frankivsk?

The Europe Prize is a great honour, which is awarded to the city that promotes European ideas very extensively. It's a great reason to be proud of our city and strive to do as much as possible for it. This Prize shows that our city, its look, its progressive strategy of development and the pursuit of general human values are seamlessly accepted by our European community. We highly appreciate such trust and honor. It's a motivation for citizens, especially for youth to comprehensively work for integration and adapt all the best practices and promote the city outside the country. Actually, this Prize is an award for all citizens of Ivano-Frankivsk.

— Can you tell us what kind of initiatives your city used to make citizens more aware of Europe and its values?

There are many regular activities to promote European culture. Every year we organise a number of informative activities connected with Europe Day, Polish Culture Days, Czech Republic Culture Days, the festival "French spring", and the Day of Twin towns. We also have a special event – Review of modern Polish cinematography "Under High Castle" ("Pid vysokym zamkom") on the basis of cultural and educational institutions in the city. We have opened an Alley of Twin towns and a Space of National cohesion in Taras Shevchenko Municipal Park. There are many partner matches and exchanges of artistic performance ensembles in the terms of realisation of partner agreements with twin towns abroad.



After receiving the Europe Prize, have you forged new links with other municipalities?

Currently Ivano-Frankivsk has documented partnerships with 24 foreign cities. Among them – cities of Poland, Hungary, the Czech Republic, Romania, Belarus, Lithuania, Latvia, the Republic of Moldova, Georgia, Portugal, and the USA. Winning the PACE's highest award has increased interest of international governmental and non-governmental organisations which is shown by different invitations to take part in other important contests in order to win international awards for progressive community development.

What advice would you give to a municipality seeking to apply for the Europe Prize?

Actually, the opportunity to take part in the Europe Prize contest is a motivation to be better and is a challenge for all of the community that encourages and increases personal responsibility of each citizen for the success of our city. This is a possibility to be part of forming a common Europe and saving its culture and values. In order to win the highest prize we need, first of all to confirm to the requirements. We need to improve and to seek to be better. We have to learn and to implement all of the best European practices in various spheres. We just need to be ourselves, to have our own unique features and to be the best citizens that we can be.





PERSPECTIVES

***Liliane Maury Pasquier,
President of the Parliamentary Assembly***

” **M**ore than 60 years after it was established by the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe, the Europe Prize continues to generate a high level of interest among local authorities throughout Europe and has shown an unfailing ability to adapt and renew itself as times have changed.

I have personally taken part in the development of the Prize and have been able to see how important it is for many local authorities. Exchanges, solidarity, co-operation, partnerships and twinning are some of the European activities which have been carried

out for decades by these local authorities which have continued to forge lasting ties and to open themselves up to other towns, cities and countries.

The Europe Prize is also a wonderful way for towns and cities to involve young people and raise their awareness of European values. The city of Lublin, the winner of the 2017 Europe Prize, for example, holds simulations of sessions of parliament for young people and carries out many European projects. This is crucial for the future of Europe: in a difficult political context, young people must be heard and understood.



And it is thanks to these essential activities and exchanges that we see a European consciousness emerging from a very early age.

Moreover, solidarity is one of the key aspects of the Europe Prize. The natural disasters and political crises affecting certain countries or regions spontaneously lead local authorities to put in place support and solidarity measures for people in need.

I strongly encourage all European towns and cities to continue applying for the Europe Prize and to carry on with their activities to promote a united, open Europe based on solidarity.



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Liliane Maury Pasquier
President of the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe



For more information:
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www.assembly.coe.int/europe-prize/
 “Europe Prize of PACE”

www.coe.int

The Council of Europe is the continent's leading human rights organisation. It comprises 47 member states, including all members of the European Union. The Parliamentary Assembly, consisting of representatives from the 47 national parliaments, provides a forum for debate and proposals on Europe's social and political issues. Many Council of Europe conventions originate from the Assembly, including the European Convention on Human Rights.

