



INTERCULTURAL ACHIEVEMENT AWARD

Call for Projects 2016

**We are looking for
successful, solution-oriented projects
within the intercultural dialogue!**

Education - Youth - Women – Media – Migration – Integration

Background Information

The Austrian Federal Ministry for Europe, Integration and Foreign Affairs has defined "Dialogue of Cultures" a clear priority. Thereby, Austria builds upon a long tradition in the field of intercultural dialogue that is deeply rooted in a history of diversity and pluralism and has been strengthened through multi- and bilateral dialogue initiatives.

Since 2007 the Task Force "Dialogue of Cultures" has supported partner organisations with the implementation of intercultural and interreligious projects and designs, finances and implements initiatives herself. The projects conceptualised by the Task Force emphasise and reflect the focus areas of the Austrian Federal Minister of Europe, Integration and Foreign Affairs and are re-defined for the dialogue sphere.

The intercultural dialogue has to be understood both as subject matter as well as a method. On the one hand, intercultural dialogue helps to better master the challenges of a pluralist society. On the other hand, dialogue needs to be better comprehended and applied as a tool and it needs to be developed in a way that can be used for the realization of public concerns.

The „Intercultural Achievement Award“ (IAA) was designed as a key project of the intercultural dialogue in 2014. It aims at identifying and awarding innovative and solution-oriented projects that operate under the umbrella of intercultural dialogue both within Austria as well as on a global scale.

Topics

Dialogue is a multifaceted concept. Thematic priorities according to the Austrian strategic focus facilitate compatibility of the submitted projects. Therefore, the intercultural projects applying for the IAA must be active in at least one of the following areas:

- Media
- Education
- Youth
- Women
- Migration
- Integration

Awards

The IAA will be awarded for the best project in each different category:

- Category Sustainability: "Best practice project"
- Category Timeliness: "Best project with reference to current issues"
- Category Innovation: "Most innovative intercultural project"
- Category Media: "Best media contribution for intercultural understanding"
- Special award "Integration in Austria"

Specific criteria and questionnaires are formulated for each prize category. The category Sustainability contains demanding criteria and can be considered as the main prize. The prize money will be staggered in accordance with sustainability criteria. The highest prize money is available for ongoing projects and is meant to promote the continuation of successful projects.

Eligibility criteria

Organisations and/or persons whose projects mainly **focus on the intercultural dialogue** and contribute to its success are eligible to apply.

Eligible projects which applied for the call in 2015 and still fulfil the criteria can reapply.

The specific eligibility criteria per prize category are summarised as follows:

Category Sustainability: "Best practice project"

- Projects that are managed and implemented by non-profit organisations (including non-government organisations as well as associations, foundations, charitable educational institutions or religious organisations) and/or commercial organisations. Government, science, research or international institutions are excluded from admission.
- The project's activities must focus on a minimum of one of the following areas: education, youth, women, migration.
- The organisation must be in operation for at least 2 years.
- The project must be running for at least 1 year already. This criterion not only ensures the viability of the project idea but also allows for the measurement of impact.
- The project cycle should be set at a minimum of 2, preferably 5 years.

Category Timeliness: "Best project with reference to current issues"

- Projects that are managed and implemented by non-profit organisations (including non-government organisations as

well as associations, foundations, charitable educational institutions or religious organisations), individuals and/or commercial organisations. Government, science, research or international institutions are excluded from admission.

- The project's activities must focus on a minimum of one of the following areas: education, youth, women, migration.
- The project has to be implemented between 2014 and 2016 and can also relate to a successful independent action in the range of intercultural dialogue. This prize category focuses on projects that were designed and implemented in reaction to current issues or developments and have contributed, also out of particular occasion, to intercultural understanding.

Category Innovation: "Most innovative intercultural project"

- Projects that are managed and implemented by non-profit organisations (including non-government organisations as well as associations, foundations, charitable educational institutions or religious organisations), individuals and/or commercial organisations. Government, science, research or international institutions are excluded from admission.
- The project's activities must focus on a minimum of one of the following areas: education, youth, women, migration.
- The project should be characterized by an innovative methodical or creative approach within the dialogue of cultures.

Category Media: "Best media contribution for intercultural understanding"

- Submitted contributions can encompass all classic (i.e. print, TV, etc.) and social media. Submitted contributions

verifiably and visibly must have positively impacted on the public sphere.

- The contribution must have verifiably achieved a wide impact for the intercultural dialogue.
- Complete journalistic, media works or dialogue platforms focusing on raising awareness, understanding and peaceful coexistence are also encouraged to apply for the IAA.
- Only contributions published after 01/01/2015 will be accepted for further consideration. The dialogue platform must be operative since at least 1 year.
- Submitted contributions must have been published in non-state classic or social media.

During an initial selection process the Task Force and the representation offices will check applications against the above criteria. Only applications that fulfil these criteria will be considered in the final phase.

Selection and Award Presentation

The representation offices will receive the eligible submissions and screen for each country two of the best projects each category for preselection. Relevance and success of the projects will be determined in dependence on the country. They also will thoroughly review the assessment of the criteria for the category Sustainability.

An independent jury in Vienna consisting of experts in the field of intercultural dialogue will undertake the final selection among finalists. There will be one winner per category.

- Category Sustainability: prize money in the amount of EUR 10.000,-.
- Category Timeliness: prize money in the amount of EUR 5.000,-.
- Category Innovation: prize money in the amount of EUR 5.000,-.
- Category Media: prize money in the amount of EUR 5.000,-.

The award ceremony is scheduled to take place in September 2016 in Vienna. The awardees will be invited to attend the ceremony in Vienna.

Assessment Criteria

In order to ensure a comprehensive assessment of projects based on clearly defined criteria, the following guidelines will be used in the process:

Applications:

A detailed online application form with guiding questions can be found [here](#). Questions must be answered in English, French or German in a clear and precise manner (clarity), be structured (detail and focus) and should convince the reader of project purpose and objectives (persuasiveness). All questions must be answered in order to be considered.

Preselected Applicants will be asked to provide additional information. Depending on the requirements of the respective category this might be a copy of a valid business/operational license, an up-to-date business plan, project report and possibly an evaluation report.

Projects – Categories Sustainability, Timeliness, Innovation:

- Does the project respond to the needs of the beneficiaries on the ground and is appropriate in the local context of operation? (**relevance, all categories**)
- Is/was the target group clearly defined and accessible for the project activities? (**impact, all categories**)
- Have objectives, activities and results been clearly defined? (**clarity, all categories**)
- Are objectives, activities and results measured and evaluated regularly? (**evaluation, sustainability**)
- Is the project innovative and introduces new concepts and methods, encourages creative thinking, applies solution-oriented approaches, and passes these on to beneficiaries? (**innovation, methods, creativity**)
- Is the concept of the project applicable to other contexts and therefore able to be implemented by different organisations? (**transferability, sustainability**)
- Did/does the project reach its objectives, is there proof of its impact? (**success, all categories**)

Additional assessment criteria - Category Sustainability:

- Does the organisation have the necessary structures and competencies in place to successfully implement and manage the project, both content-wise and financially? (**structure**)
- Are sufficient financial resources available within the organisation in order to ensure the implementation and wrapping-up of the project? (**budget**)

- Does the organisation have relevant experience in the field of intercultural dialogue and exchange? (**experience**)
- Are the principles of respect, equality and diversity visible in the structure of the organisation as well as in the implementation of activities with both partners and the target groups? (**equality**)
- Are regular financial audits or evaluations of the organisation and its projects conducted? (**transparency**)

These criteria represent optional conditions solely for the category Sustainability: "Best practice project". They positively influence the quality, and therefore the assessment of applications.

For more information about the Task Force „Dialogue of Cultures“ and its work, please visit us at:
<http://www.bmeia.gv.at/dialogueofcultures>

To apply for the IAA, please click [here](#).

Application deadline: 4th April 2016