Public Administration
Awards
2020
Western Balkans

The Public Administration Awards

A unique, joint endeavour of ReSPA and OECD/SIGMA to enhance governance initiatives in the Western Balkans region.

For the first time in the Western Balkans region an awards system has been established aimed to identify, promote, learn from and recognise inspiring practices, initiatives, services and measures by the Western Balkans governments.

This unique endeavour aims to involve and promote the most effective and efficient practices among the Western Balkans governments that can inspire and push the region forward on the path toward European Union membership.

By focusing on initiatives that ensure continuity in the delivery of public services, resilience and responsiveness of public administrations, the award system will be organised annually. It will include different categories, depending on the needs and challenges that will appear in the WB region.

The 2020 Award Category: Adaptabillity of the government during the coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic

This year, the focus is on the successful responses by the Western Balkans administrations to the COVID-19 crisis which forced the governments to be inventive and responsive to deal effectively with issues concerning both public health, public services and the economy.

The Awards highlight government efforts that advance, promote and anchor innovative, effective, inclusive and adaptable tools and systems in the Western Balkans public administrations in order to deal with extraordinary situations supporting citizens, businesses and other Governmental entities.

For more information, visit the **link**

The 2020 Award Criteria

The applications submitted must fall within the following areas linked to the mandate, vision, objectives, and mission of both ReSPA and OECD/SIGMA, namely: Better Regulations, Good Governance, Digital Government, Quality Management, Public Administration Reform (PAR), Public Financial Management and Human Resource Management and Development.

For more information about Contest Rules, click on the **link**.

Who can apply / be nominated?

The PA AWARDS 2020 is open to **public sector institutions at the national level from all ReSPA Members** (Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, North Macedonia, Montenegro, Serbia) and Kosovo*
The call is also open for the **sub-national and local level institutions** in case there is a proved connection (collaboration/partnership / transfer of knowledge) with a PA institution at the national level. In the case of public-private partnerships, the lead nominee must be a public sector institution. Individuals cannot participate in the award.

For more information visit the **link**
For more information about Aplication Guide, click on the **link**

---

*This designation is without prejudice to positions on status, and is in line with UNSCR 1244 and ICJ Advisory opinion on the Kosovo Declaration of independence

Evaluation Criteria

It relates to the adaptation, anticipation and responses of PA institutions in the context of a crisis: Adaptable, Forward-looking, Effective & Impactful, Participatory & Inclusiveness, Transferable & Replicable.

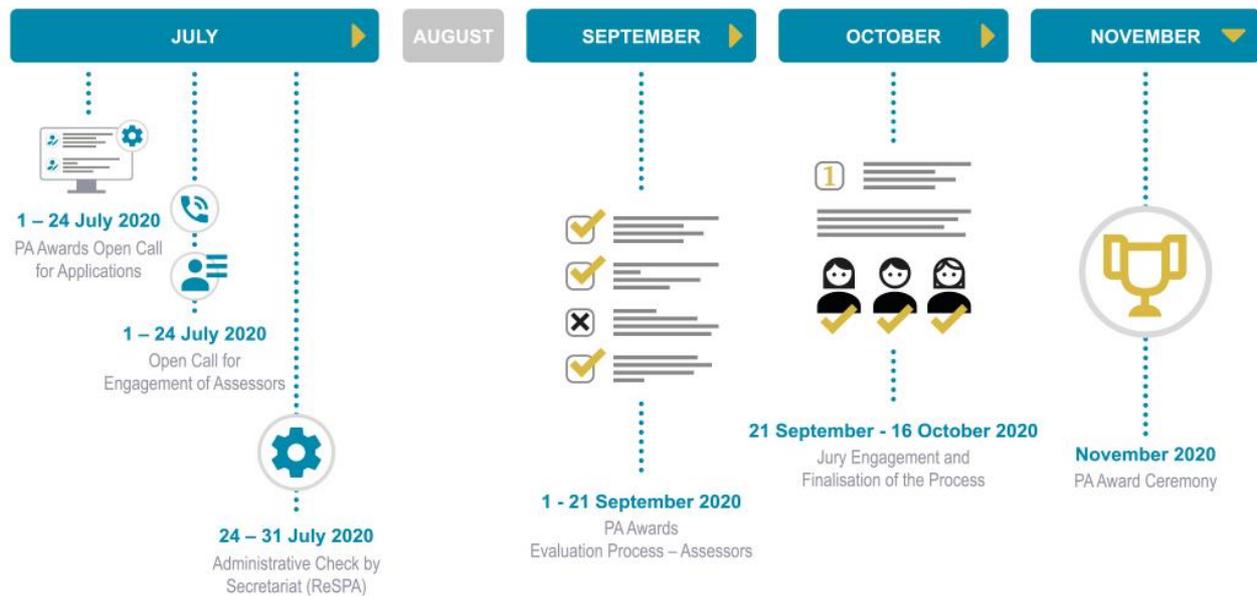| Criteria	Definitions	Sub-Criteria
Adaptable	Evidence shows that the initiative would also improve the level of adaptability of a government in possible future situations of crisis.The initiative must provide regulations, procedures, mechanisms and means to ensure its sustainability and resilience in the future.	-The initiative should reflect the process of change adaptation caused by external factors (at societal / global scale). - Adjustment of management style during the COVID-19 pandemic
Forward looking	The initiative must introduce new ways of working or delivering services in the public sector and an innovative approach in addressing problems occurring in extraordinary circumstances. The translation of new ideas into practice and harnessing new technology.	-The initiative should present new ideas, approaches -The initiative uses modern tools and contemporary solutions. - Inventive in strategy, process, and/or system. - New ways of mobilisation and use of resources (human, financial, technical, etc.) in a crisis context.
Effective & Impactful	- Changes and transformations have been noticed since the implementation of the initiative in addressing the problems identified when designing the project as a response to the crisis concerned.	- Relevance: The initiative should have made a positive impact on a group(s) of the population and/or address a significant issue of public concern within the context of a given country or region in a the context of a crisis. - The evidence should demonstrate that the initiative was effective, efficient (if applicable), had an economic impact for the Institution and was implemented using transparent methods in the context of a crisis. - Existence of statistics, ratios, etc. is encouraged.
Participatory & Inclusiveness	- The initiative is based on an open approach including all concerned and affected parties in the context of a crisis, and captures diverse views, through: - First, the involvement of the beneficiaries and other stakeholders in the design, operation, management, monitoring and evaluation of the project in the context of a crisis; - Second, the ownership of the project by the said beneficiaries and other stakeholders in the context of a crisis.	- Identification and mapping of the beneficiaries and other stakeholders - Citizen engagement. - Information, consultation, participation, involvement of the beneficiaries and other stakeholders. - Leaving no one behind in terms of taking into account disadvantaged, marginalised, and vulnerable populations. - Gender mainstreaming. - Building and promoting Partnership: The initiative should demonstrate that it has engaged relevant stakeholders and partners.
Transferable & Replicable	The possibility of replicating the project, partially or fully, in a different setting or context in the Western Balkan Countries during and after the crisis context.	- Dissemination of the initiative as successful and best practice at the state level and in the region. - Potential of universal appeal, replication and transfer. - the initiative can be adopted to solve problems in similar organisations and in similar, extraordinary situations. - It can be adopted to solve problems in similar country set-ups and similar, extraordinary situations. - Documentation and building on (developing) the initiative. - The initiative can serve as a case study for ReSPA and its Network.

Evaluation Process

The entire process will be conducted by the International Experts Jury composed of highly-recognised international experts (ReSPA representatives or ReSPA-selected independent experts and OECD/SIGMA representatives or/and experts appointed by them).

For more information, visit the **link**

Phase 1

Award secretariat (ReSPA and SIGMA) - Eligibility Check
- Briefing call for all involved members of staff, guiding them through the process and functionality of the platform.
- Screening all submitted applications regarding eligibility, fullfillment of criteria and completeness - disqualifcation of incomplete, ineligible or false submissions.
- In case of necessity, secretariat request further information (calls, emails).

Phase 2a

Assessors - Assesment Phase
- Telephoe discussion between all assessors and award secretariat, explaining the methodology, procedures and platform, forming the teams of assessors.
- Screening of all submissions in the award database regarding award criteria - first summary and impression of applications.
- Assessors request potential further clarification or information about the applications from the award secretariat. Secretariat will get in touch with the respective applicant.

Phase 2b

Assessors - Data Specification Phase - supported by Award secretariat.
- Assessor teams agree on the most promising applications and request the award secretariat to schedule interviews by telephone with the applicants.
- Award secretariat will provide a questionnaire for these calls and schedule the calls between assessors and applicants, supported by an online tool.
- Assessors take notes during the calls and upload them to the contest platform.
- Assessors submit their evaluation through the platform.

Phase 2c

Assessors and Award secretariat - Shortlisting Phase
- Award secretariat compiles a ranking list based on the assessment conducted and presents it to the panel of all assessors.
- Assessors will have the opportunity to speak for/against specific applications and agree on the suggested shortlist to be presented to the jury.
- Assessors prepare a summary file with the all the qualified projects with the proposal of the shortlisted projects.

Phase 3

Jury Members - JURY MEETING
- Secretariat presents the methodology and process to jury members.
- Secretariat presents the suggested shortlist to the jury members.
- Once the jury members have approved or adjusted the shortlist, assessors present the initiatives to the jury members.
- Jury has a right to promote the applications left below the threshold by the assessors to the shortlist.
- Jury members discuss each application - vote and select the winners of the first Public Administration Award in the Western Balkans.

For more information about Evaluation Guidelines, click on the **link**

Timeline

If you have any questions related to the rules, contest, etc., please contact:

pa-awards@respaweb.eu

If you have any difficulties with the awards database, please contact

office@worldsummitawards.org

Nominate your successful and inspiring initiatives that cope with Covid-19 pandemic or another crisis until 24 July 2020!

We wish you a lot of success!