

Guidelines

National Enterprise Support Awards 2018 & European Enterprise Promotion Awards 2018



Contents

1. National Enterprise Support Awards 2018

1.1	DEFINITION AND RATIONALE	Pg
1.1.1	An award that recognises excellence in promoting entrepreneurship	3
1.1.2	The objectives	4
1.1.3	The importance of entrepreneurship	4
1.1.4	Winners from the three sections	4
1.2.	METHODOLOGY	
1.2.1	Who can participate	5
1.2.2	Categories	5
1.2.3	Awards-giving criteria	7
1.2.4	Closing date of applications	7
1.3.	THE SECONDARY INITIATIVE PLANNED TO BE IMPLEMENTED BY THE END OF 2018 OR WITH A SUBSTANTIAL PART OF IT ALREADY IMPLEMENTED BY THE END OF 2018	8

2. European Enterprise Promotion Awards 2018

2.1	Nominations for the European Enterprise Promotion Awards 2018	9
2.2	The nominees from each country	9

1 National Enterprise Support Awards 2018

1.1 DEFINITION AND RATIONALE

1.1.1 An award that recognises excellence in promoting entrepreneurship

The Commerce Department within the Ministry for the Economy, Investment and Small Businesses is organising this competition for the eight consecutive year.

These awards are not just a competition but are intended to foster more awareness of the importance of entrepreneurship both on a local and on a national level.

Local councils, ministries, departments, public authorities and entities, public-private partnerships, NGOs, trade unions, professional associations, public and church schools, public educational institutions, University of Malta and business organisations which submit an application for these awards will be eligible for nomination to compete in the European Enterprise Promotion Awards 2018. Every year, these awards bring together winners from all over Europe and serve as an inspiration to others. The countries eligible to participate in these European Awards are the 28 Member States¹ of the European Union and the Associate Countries in the Competitive and Innovation Programme (CIP): Iceland, Norway, Serbia and Turkey.

The National Enterprise Support Awards is a competition involving **two** entrepreneurial initiatives.

- The first initiative, which should be considered as the **Main Initiative**, (refer to Part B and C of the application form) is the one that can be nominated to represent Malta in the European Enterprise Promotion Awards 2018. This can be an ongoing or a recent initiative (that was not concluded before 2014) and that had influence on a local/national level with incremental evolution on a period of at least two years.
- The second initiative, which should be considered as the **Secondary Initiative**, (refer to Part D of the application form) can either relate to the first initiative mentioned in the first part of the application or it can be a completely different initiative. This can be an initiative planned to be implemented by the end of 2018 or else an initiative with a substantial part of it already implemented by the end of 2018.

Both initiatives will be adjudicated according to the awards-giving criteria mentioned in section 1.2.3 of the Guidelines.

¹ Austria, Belgium, Bulgaria, Croatia, Cyprus, Czech Republic, Denmark, Estonia, Finland, France, Germany, Greece, Hungary, Ireland, Italy, Latvia, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Malta, The Netherlands, Poland, Portugal, Romania, Slovakia, Slovenia, Spain, Sweden and the United Kingdom.

National Enterprise Support Awards 2018

1.1.2 The Objectives

1. To identify and recognise successful activities and initiatives undertaken to promote enterprise and entrepreneurship;
2. To showcase and share examples of best entrepreneurship policies and practices;
3. To create a greater awareness of the role entrepreneurs play in society;
4. To encourage and inspire potential entrepreneurs.

1.1.3 The importance of entrepreneurship

Entrepreneurship-friendly policy is inherently linked to the needs of small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs), a vital part of the European economy accounting for over 99% of European businesses. The SME sector contributes to innovation, is a source of competition, provides flexibility in the labour market and, most crucially, is a resource for job creation.

It was for this purpose that the DG Enterprise and Industry of the European Commission initiated a competition to award initiatives in those countries that are facilitating business, particularly by recognising the importance of entrepreneurship.

The Maltese Government continues to support entrepreneurship by organising a local competition to reward initiatives that have the same goal.

1.1.4 Winners from the three sections

There are three different sections in this national competition. One section is open to local councils (Section A), another section is open to ministries, departments, public authorities and entities and public-private partnerships (Section B) and the other section (Section C) is open to NGOs, trade unions, professional associations, public and church schools, public educational institutions, University of Malta and business organisations.

The submissions need to refer to ongoing or recent initiatives (that did not finish before 2014) that had influence on a local/national level and had incremental evolution on a period of at least two years.

Winners from the three sections will receive a prize of €10,000 each. €6,000 will be presented during the awards-giving ceremony whilst €4,000 will be given by the end of 2018 subject to the progress registered in the implementation of the Secondary Initiative planned to be finished by the end of 2018 or with a substantial part of it already implemented by the end of 2018 as declared in Part D of the application form.

Those who place second in the three sections will qualify for a prize of €6,000 each. €4,000 will be presented during the awards-giving ceremony whilst the remaining €2,000 will be given by the end of 2018 subject to the progress registered in the implementation of the Secondary Initiative planned to be finished by the end of 2018 or with a substantial part of it already implemented by the end of 2018 as declared in Part D of the application form.

National Enterprise Support Awards 2018

The second part of the prize - in the case of the two winners from three sections (the two which bring the highest overall scores) which are also selected to compete at European level - is also subject to a commitment that as nominees from Malta, they agree and accept to participate in the awards-giving ceremony of the European Enterprise Promotion Awards 2018 that will be held in Graz, Vienna on the 20th November 2018.

Depending on the quality of initiatives submitted for this competition, three consolation prizes of €1,000 each may be awarded in each of the three sections.

In Section B (see 1.2.1.) the winner, the runner-up and in the event that a consolation prize is also awarded, the money will be given on the understanding and condition that they are given to a recognised charity of their choice. This condition does not apply to those who take part in Section A and Section C (see 1.2.1.).

1.2 METHODOLOGY

1.2.1 Who can participate

This competition is open to local councils that will compete in Section "A", to ministries, departments, public authorities and entities and public-private partnerships that will compete in Section "B", and to NGOs, trade unions, professional associations, public and church schools, public educational institutions, University of Malta and business organisations that will compete in Section "C". Although there are three sections, the application form is common to all sections.

1.2.2. Categories

There are six categories in each section and each will recognise the local or national initiatives that are successfully driving forward their enterprise performance:

- 1. Promoting the entrepreneurial spirit:** recognises initiatives at national or local level that promote an entrepreneurial mindset especially among young people and women.
Examples: Events and campaigns to enhance the image of entrepreneurship and entrepreneurs and to promote a culture that encourages creativity, innovation and risk acceptance.
- 2. Investing in entrepreneurial skills:** recognises initiatives at national or local level to improve entrepreneurial and managerial skills
Examples: Promotion of specific skills such as technical skills needed in the craft sector, language capabilities, computer literacy; mobility and mentoring schemes for entrepreneurs, entrepreneurship education in schools and universities
- 3. Improving the business environment:** recognises innovative policies at national or local level which promote enterprise start-up and growth, simplify legislative

and administrative procedures for businesses and implement the “Think Small First” principle in favour of small and medium-sized enterprises.

Examples: Measures to facilitate access to public procurement markets for SMEs, cut red-tape, get new small businesses off the ground, help to promote the innovation potential of information and communications technology (ICT) and e-business.

- 4. Supporting the internationalisation of business:** recognises policies and initiatives at national or local level that encourage enterprise and particularly small and medium-sized businesses to benefit more from the opportunities offered by markets both inside and outside the European Union.

Examples: Projects to build, maintain and support international business cooperation, information or match-making tools, support services or schemes that help SMEs internationalise.

- 5. Supporting the Development of Green Markets and Resource Efficiency**

(Recognises policies and initiatives at national or local level that support SME access to green markets and help to improve their resource efficiency through, for example, green skills development and matchmaking as well as funding. Green markets are those that improve human life and social equity, whilst significantly reducing environmental risks and ecological scarcities).

- 6. Responsible and inclusive entrepreneurship:** recognises national and local initiatives by authorities or public/private partnerships that promote corporate social responsibility among small and medium sized enterprises. This category will also recognise efforts to promote entrepreneurship among disadvantaged groups such as the unemployed (especially long-term unemployed), legal migrants, disabled persons or people from ethnic minorities.

Examples: Social or non-profit enterprises serving societal needs through entrepreneurship.

The Selection Committee may decide to place an application in a different category from that originally applied for.

National Enterprise Support Awards 2018

1.2.3 Awards-giving criteria

Once an application is considered eligible to participate, it will be adjudicated according to the following criteria:

Criteria	Maximum marks
Originality and feasibility: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Was the initiative original and innovative?• Why is it considered successful?	20 points
Impact upon the local economy: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• What was the impact of the initiative on the local economy?• Did it create jobs?• Is the initiative sustainable in the future?• What positive long-term effect will it have?	30 points
Improvement of local stakeholder relations: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Was the local population involved in the initiative?• Did the disadvantaged communities benefit?• Were local cultural, environmental and social characteristics respected?	25 points
Transferability: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Could the approach be repeated elsewhere in Malta?• Could the approach be repeated elsewhere around Europe?• Is the initiative inspiring to others?• Are there any relationships/partnerships being developed to share lessons learnt?	25 points

1.2.4. Closing date of applications

Applications (for the three sections) should reach the Commerce Department by not later than **Friday 27th April 2018 (by noon)**, addressed to:

Selection Committee (Attn: Noel Bartolo)

National Enterprise Support Awards 2018

Commerce Department

Lascaris Bastions, Daħlet Ġnien is-Sultan

Valletta VLT 1933

Malta

or

Email – nesa.commerce@gov.mt

1.3. THE SECONDARY INITIATIVE THAT IS BEING PLANNED TO BE IMPLEMENTED BY THE END OF 2018 OR WITH A SUBSTANTIAL PART OF IT ALREADY IMPLEMENTED BY THE END OF 2018

As part of the application, local councils (Section A), ministries, departments, public authorities and entities, public-private partnerships (Section B) and NGOs, trade unions, professional associations, public and church schools, public educational institutions, University of Malta and business organisations (Section C) must include information on the Secondary Initiative planned to be finished by the end of 2018 or with a substantial part of it already implemented by the end of 2018. The initiative must meet one or more of the objectives mentioned below:

- *shows recognition of entrepreneurship excellence*
- *supports entrepreneurship*
- *be instrumental in inspiring others*
- *shows the contribution of the entrepreneur to society*
- *serves as a source of inspiration for new entrepreneurs*

The initiative can also relate to other specific themes like entrepreneurship with and in schools, the involvement of the whole community, women and entrepreneurship, entrepreneurship and the environment or tourism, social entrepreneurship with disadvantaged persons as well as initiatives which aim to promote Government schemes in favour of entrepreneurship.

The initiative can relate to the initiative mentioned in the first part of the application i.e. that Main Initiative that could be nominated for the European Enterprise Promotion Awards 2018 or it can be a completely different initiative.

As indicated in section 1.1.4, in the case of the two winners from three sections that are selected to compete at European level, the second part of the prize (€4,000) is also tied with the commitment that as Malta's nominees the winners agree and accept to participate in the awards-giving ceremony of the European Enterprise Promotion Awards 2018 to be held in Graz, Vienna on the 20th November 2018.

The initiative will be adjudicated according to the awards-giving criteria mentioned in section 1.2.3.

2. European Enterprise Promotion Awards 2018

2.1 Nominations for the European Enterprise Promotion Awards 2018

All the applications (the Main Initiatives) that are submitted for the three sections of the national competition will be eligible for nomination to compete in the European Enterprise Promotion Awards 2018. Those that are eventually nominated (maximum of two nominations falling under two separate categories) will be agreeing and accepting to represent Malta in this prestigious award on a European level.

All participants that are nominated by their respective countries for the European Enterprise Promotion Awards 2018 will be invited to participate in the ceremony of the awards that will be held in Graz, Vienna on the 20th November 2018.

A European media campaign will showcase nominees and give them prominence.

There will be two types of winners: the winners of the prize in the categories for creative implementation of entrepreneurial practices and another overall winner for the Grand Prize of the Jury. In addition to receiving the award itself, the winners will be recognized for their creativity and successful implementation. They will also serve as an inspiration to others by acting as role models in the European Union.

A number of activities will be carried out on the media to ensure that the winners receive the recognition they deserve in their constituencies as well as through major media in Europe

2.2 The nominees from each country

A maximum of two (Main) initiatives that compete for the National Enterprise Support Awards 2018 can be submitted (by the Selection Committee) to the European Commission by Tuesday 3rd July 2018 as Malta's nominations in the European Enterprise Promotion Awards 2018.