

„Intercultural Achievement Award“

We are looking for

NPOs with innovative solutions in the fields of:

Education – Participation – Business



Background Information

Austria enjoys 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. Against this background, the Austrian Federal Ministry for Europe, Integration and International Affairs has defined “Dialogue of Cultures” a clear priority and has actively engaged in the promotion thereof.

Since 2007 the Task Force “Dialogue of Cultures” guides and implements initiatives. On the one hand the MFA provides continuous support to partner organizations that aim at promoting intercultural dialogue. On the other hand, the Task Force designs and manages a number of own projects.

The „Intercultural Achievement Award“ describes the most recent effort and aims to identify and award innovative and solution-oriented projects that operate under the umbrella of intercultural dialogue.

Thematic Focus

Dialogue is a far-reaching concept that spans a number of sectors and thematic areas. Three thematic areas have been selected, namely education, participation, and business. Organizations can either operate in one of the selected areas or in up to all three fields. A special focus has been given to women and youth, cross-cutting themes that are considered important, will be given special consideration.

Eligibility Criteria

Non-profit organizations that are dedicated to the promotion of intercultural dialogue are eligible for the IAA. Projects must focus on Dialogue efforts in the fields of education, participation and business. Specific selection criteria can be summarized as follows:

- Projects that are managed and implemented by non-profit organizations (including NGOs, charities, foundations, research and education institutes, religious societies);
- Activities must focus on a minimum of the following areas: education, participation and business. Projects that increasingly include women and youth will be given special consideration;
- The organization must be in operation for at least 2 years;
- The project must be running for at least 1 year already. This criteria not only ensures the viability of the project idea, but also allows for the measurement of impact for at least 1 year;
- The project cycle should be set at a minimum of 2 years, preferably 5 years.

During an initial selection process, the 30 Austrian cultural institutes/Representation Offices (ACI) will check applications against the above criteria. Only applications that fulfill these criteria will be considered in the final phase.

Selection and Award Giving

The selection process is comprised of two steps. In a first round, the respective ACI on the ground will screen applications and identify those projects that meet the respective assessment criteria. Projects must depict innovation, creativity as well as potential for sustainability. A jury, comprised of experts in the field of intercultural dialogue, will undertake the final selection among finalists.

Awarding the best three projects depicts the idea behind the award. Depending on the level of participation and the quality of projects, the number of awardees may increase in number. The following is proposed as awards, which may change depending on sponsor engagement:

| | |
|------------------------|---|
| 1 st place: | Project support in the amount of 10.000.- EUR |
| 2 nd place: | Project support in the amount of 7.000.- EUR |
| 3 rd place: | Project support in the amount of 5.000.- EUR |

Award ceremonies are envisioned to take place in the respective ACIs on the ground.

Assessment Criteria

In order to ensure a comprehensive assessment of projects based on clearly defined and unified criteria, the following questions and 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**, 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. You will also be asked to provide a copy of a valid business/operational license, an up-to-date business plan, project report and possibly an evaluation report are required in the application process. Please note that applications submitted in any other language than English will not be considered.

The assessment will look at both the organization operating the project(s) and the content of the project itself.

Project

- Does the project respond to the needs of the beneficiaries on the ground and is appropriate in the local context of operation? (**relevance**)
- Is the target group clearly defined and reachable with the project activities? (**impact**)
- Have objectives, activities and results been clearly defined (**clarity**) so that they can be measured regularly? (**evaluation**)
- Is the project innovative in that it introduces new concepts and methods, encourages creative thinking, applies solution-oriented approaches, and passes these on to beneficiaries? (**innovation**)
- Has the concept of sustainability been introduced in the project as to ensure implementation beyond initial funding? Is a phasing-out strategy available? (**sustainability**)

- Is the concept applicable to other contexts and thus can be taken on by other organizations? (**transferability**)

Organization

- Does the organization 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 in the organization in order to ensure the implementation and wrapping-up of the project? (**budget**)
- Does the organization 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 organization as well as in the implementation of activities with partners and the target group? (**equality**)
- Are regular financial audits or evaluations of the organization and projects taking place? (**transparency**)

For more information on the Task Force “Dialogue of Cultures” and its work, please visit us at:

www.bmeia.gv.at/dialogueofcultures

In order to apply, please click here: [Call for Projects](#)

Apply no later than May 31st, 2014

Business

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