



# *INTERCULTURAL ACHIEVEMENT AWARD*

## **Call for Projects 2017**

**We are looking for  
successful and solution-oriented intercultural dialogue projects!**

*In the fields of Media/Journalism, Art/Culture, Youth, Women and Global Citizenship Education*

## **Background Information**

The Austrian Federal Ministry for Europe, Integration and Foreign Affairs has defined the “Dialogue of Cultures” to be a clear priority in International Policy. 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.

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/Journalism
- Art/Culture
- Youth
- Women
- Global Citizenship Education

## Awards

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

- Category **Sustainability**: "Best practice project"
- Category **Recent Events**: "Best project with reference to current issues"
- Category **Innovation**: "Most innovative intercultural project"
- Category **Media**: "Best media contribution for intercultural understanding"

Specific criteria and questionnaires are defined and prepared for each prize category. The Sustainability category 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 intercultural dialogue** and contribute to its success are eligible to apply.

Eligible projects which applied for the call in 2016 and still fulfil the criteria may re-apply.

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, integration.
- 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 **Recent Events**: “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, integration.
- The project has to be implemented between 2015 and 2017 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, integration.
- 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 media (i. e. print, TV, radio etc.) and social media. Submitted contributions must have verifiably and visibly impacted the public sphere in a positive way.
- 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 1 January 2016 will be accepted for further consideration. The dialogue platform must have been operative for 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 Austrian representation offices abroad 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 pick the two best projects in each category for pre-selection. Relevance and success of the projects will be determined taking into account the specificities of each country. They will also thoroughly review the assessment of the criteria for the Sustainability category.

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 amounting to EUR 10.000,-.
- Category **Recent Events**: prize money amounting to EUR 5.000,-.
- Category **Innovation**: prize money amounting to EUR 5.000,-.
- Category **Media**: prize money amounting to EUR 5.000,-.

The award ceremony is scheduled to take place in September 2017. The awardees will be invited to attend the ceremony.

## **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 either English, French or German in a clear and precise manner (clarity), be structured (detail and focus) and should convince the reader of the project purpose and objectives (persuasiveness). All questions must be answered in order to be considered.

Pre-selected 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, Recent Events, 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 Sustainability category: “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 2017, please click [here](#).

**Application deadline: 12 April 2017**

