



European Village Renewal Award 2018

European Award for Rural Development and Village Renewal

of the
European Association for Rural Development and Village Renewal

under the motto



The competition for the 13th European Village Renewal Award is guided by the intention of bringing excellent and exemplary processes of development and renewal in rural communities "into the limelight" and bestow recognition on them, taking into account their economic and cultural context. The main criteria is that the projects contribute to an increase of quality of life and to a sustainable improvement in rural areas' readiness for the future, as laid out in the "Guidance for a Sustainable Development of European Villages and Rural Communities". Therefore the competition promotes in particular such villages, rural communities and communal alliances in Europe that have addressed the current challenges of their habitat in bottom-up processes with aligned, innovative and visionary projects and thereby kick-started a contemporary and future-oriented development. Special recognition shall be given to communities that consider themselves not a secluded "island", but rather an integrated part of their region, of their country, of Europe and of the world. This also encompasses the readiness to take responsibility to overcome the greater challenges faced by humanity and to find proper solutions.

The competition motto „think further“ reflects the fact that – in an increasingly complex world – each decision and each action affects other sectors. Additionally, village and rural development are faced with a growing number of challenges that cannot be overcome within narrow geographical boundaries or with short-sighted and narrow-minded answers. The motto shall therefore be a signal to face these changed realities, to prove to be explorers and developers of sustainable processes, and to dare to advance with innovative, creative and holistic steps. Promoting the inclusion of all people associated with the living space within local events and developments and thereby gaining more diverse perspectives, broadened horizons and more various ideas is of particular relevance. Not least, the motto aims to reach those rural communities which encourage the formation of networks and which ally with their neighbors to form intercommunal and regional associations and alliances.

Criteria for judging entries

The participating municipality's reaction to strengths and weaknesses as well as internal and external dangers and risks at the beginning of the development process will be measured. Hereby, concrete measures and projects will be evaluated as well as the chosen methods and the fundamental strategies.

A. Strategies

1. Goal conformity
2. Congruency and holism
3. Sustainability

B. Methods

1. Information and communication between citizens, politics and administration
2. Self-motivated initiative and citizen participation
3. Intercommunal and interregional co-operations, public-private-partnerships and networks
4. Planning, consultation and process management

C. Themes and goals

1. Strengthening ecological agriculture and forestry while respecting the character of the man-made landscape
2. Responsible and sustainable management of natural resources and use of renewable raw materials
3. Activities in the sense of ensuring local supply and location-compatible purchase options with a view to regional value-added chains
4. Settlement development in accordance with economic, ecological, cultural space and society needs
5. Revitalization of valuable old and creation of good-quality new buildings
6. Creation of up-to date social institutions and socio-cultural qualities
7. Strengthening the sense of identity and the self-assurance of village residents
8. Promotion of the empowerment and motivation of village dwellers to commit socially
9. Encouragement of the participation of all age groups, genders, nationalities and minorities in economic, social and cultural life

The abovementioned areas and tasks oftentimes supplement, overlap, strengthen and cause one another. They will be weighed more or less strongly for each municipality, depending on their regional and local situation.

D. Motto adequacy

Prizes

1. The winner is awarded the "European Village Renewal Award 2016".
2. The second highest award is the „European Village Renewal Award for sustainable, holistic and motto-adequate village development of excellent quality“.
3. Participants, whose assessment is largely positive, are awarded the "European Village Renewal Award for special achievements in multiple fields of village development“.

4. A "European Village Renewal Award for special achievements in individual fields of village development" is bestowed on all those participants, which can refer to individual, particularly convincing development projects.
5. Optional: Special Jury Award for outstanding motto adequacy

Awards will be non-monetary, but will consist in symbolic objects such as trophies, commemorative plaques and diplomas.

Conditions for entry

Only one nomination will be accepted per province or region. Nominations can be of a village or a (joint) municipality or an intermunicipal association, while a population of 20,000 should not be exceeded. Nominations are to be made by the politicians or administrators responsible in each country or region for village renewal and rural development, or alternatively by non-governmental organizations in the absence of official nominations by the authorities.

The entrance fee will be invoiced after the entry and is:

- 550 EURO for villages/municipalities/intermunicipal associations from countries, provinces or regions that are members of the European Association for Rural Development and Village Renewal (Europäische ARGE Landentwicklung und Dorferneuerung)
- 1.800 EURO for all others.

Bank: Raiffeisenbank Niederösterreich-Wien AG
IBAN: AT623200000000658955
BIC/SWIFT: RLNWATWW

Documents to submit:

1. **Entry form:** The filled-in entry form, in digital form and on paper (please request the form from info@landentwicklung.org); the digital version should be a Word document and not contain any charts of large data weight. We will also be happy to receive an (illustrated) pdf version with it.

2. **Photos:** At least five photographs (of persons, landscape, buildings), with captions, suitable for dissemination to the press and for possible publications by the European Association for Rural Development and Village Renewal. If possible, in digital form as well as on paper (text as MS Word document; images with a minimum resolution of 300 dpi, files about 4MB per image).

3. **Placard:** Plans, graphics, photographs, explanatory text, "before and after" representations etc., it would be the best to sum this up in a placard, which should facilitate a clear understanding of the measures and also suitable to be exhibited. It should fit onto no more than two 120x90 cm posters. Please send in an easily transportable form (i.e. not as stiff plates, but rolled); if possible, also in digital form (vector graphics for graphs and tables; Illustrator eps format).

4. **Plans:** Area usage plan, a topographic map with a scale of 1:50,000 or 1:25,000, aerial images or other representations and explanations that provide information on the current area usage and planned settlement development

5. **Optional documents:** Additional information and presentation material may be included.

All submissions are to be sent before the deadline (February 16, 2018) to the following address:

Europäische ARGE Landentwicklung und Dorferneuerung
Domgasse 4/2/16,
A-3100 St. Pölten
E-Mail: info@landentwicklung.org

Schedule

By November 24, 2017 :	Nomination of Participant (Late entries are possible until February 5, 2018)
February 16, 2018:	Deadline for entries
Spring 2018:	1. Assessment meeting of the jury
May/June 2018:	Visits to all participating locations by jury delegates
June/July 2018:	2. Assessment meeting of the jury, decision
September/October 2018:	Award ceremony in Fließ, Tyrol, Austria

Information

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