



European Village Renewal Award 2016

European Award for Rural Development and Village Renewal
of the

European Association for Rural Development and Village Renewal

Motto:
„open mind“

The competition for the 14th 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.

Our motto "open mind" reflects the fact that, in a world that changes on a daily basis, conventional ways can often turn out to be lopsided or a dead end. Therefore, it represents an impulse to gain an open mind for the new, the unknown and the unusual. This includes openness to innovative ideas, strategies and perspectives as well as openness to people with "different" life styles, religions, nationalities and social backgrounds. It is necessary to recognise that human diversity does not represent a threat, but rather an asset. Not least the motto of our competition aims to address rural communities that are open to cooperation, recognise neighbouring borders as bridges and consolidate with such 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 opportunities 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. Measures/Projects

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, nationalities and minorities and of both genders in economic, social and cultural life

B. Methods

1. Information and communication between citizens, politics and administration
2. Self-motivated initiative and citizen participation
3. Co-operations, public-private-partnerships and networks
4. Consultation and process management

C. Strategies

1. Conformity with the goals
2. Congruence and Completeness
3. Sustainability

Prizes

The winner is awarded the "European Village Renewal Award 2016".

The second highest award is the „European Village Renewal Award for sustainable, holistic and motto-adequate village development of excellent quality“.

Participants, whose assessment is largely positive, are awarded the "European Village Renewal Award for special achievements in multiple fields of village development“.

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.

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

Conditions for entry

Only one nomination will be accepted per country 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 organisations 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)

1.700 EURO for all others.

Bank: Raiffeisenbank Niederösterreich-Wien AG

Account number 658.955

Bank code 32 000

IBAN AT623200000000658955

SWIFT code RLNWATWW

Participants should 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 in good time to the following address:

Europäische ARGE Landentwicklung und Dorferneuerung

Domgasse 4/2/16,

A-3100 St. Pölten

E-Mail: info@clubnoe.at

Schedule

Till November 27th 2015 Denominating of a participant (later entry is possible – deadline February 5th, 2016)

February 5th, 2016: Deadline for entries

March 2016: First session of the jury

May/June 2016: Visits to all participating locations by jury delegations

June/July 2016: Second session of the jury, decision

September/October 2016: Award ceremony in Tihany, Hungary

Contacts/Information

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