

Parliamentary Network on Diaspora Policies



Regulations for the European Diaspora Prize

1. Introduction

1. The Parliamentary Network on Diaspora Policies (henceforth PNDP), created at the initiative of the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe (henceforth PACE), decided to create an annual Award for the most distinguished diaspora association of the year: the European Diaspora Prize (henceforth Prize), in order to:

- identify, celebrate and reward the most distinguished diaspora associations;
- promote the best initiatives and practice of diaspora associations;
- encourage diaspora associations to develop and implement effective and efficient activities for the benefit of their members, the host countries, and the countries of origin.

2. The Prize

2. The Prize shall be awarded by the PNDP based on a pre-selection done by the Pre-Selection Panel (see sub-heading 6, Pre-Selection Panel) each year in order to reward the most outstanding diaspora association, with the best accomplishments in respect of:

- supporting integration in the host countries, while
- promoting and fostering cultural identity and
- developing links with and providing support to the countries of origin.

3. Nature

3. The Prize shall consist of a diploma and statuette to be awarded to the most prominent diaspora association during the annual Forum or one of the regional meetings of the PNDP. The winner shall hand over the statuette symbolising the prize to the winner of the following year.

4. Eligibility

4. Those Eligible for the Prize shall be diaspora associations (non-governmental, non-profit organisations) legally established in any Council of Europe (CoE) member state, whose main purpose is one of the following:

- to promote the interests and identity of the diaspora;
- to provide recommendations to the host country's central and local authorities for the better integration of diaspora living in their country;
- to provide recommendations and support to central and local authorities in the country(ies) of origin as to the policies to be implemented to further the economic, social and cultural links and development of their diaspora.

5. Nominations

5. Nominations for the Prize must reach the Secretariat before the deadline established each year by the Pre-Selection Panel of the Prize. They can be submitted by any member of the PNDP or their legal representative.

6. Nominations should provide details of the nominee's action(s) in supporting diaspora members, and/or central, regional and local authorities of host countries and/or the countries of origin and specify the reasons

why the nominee's action(s) in the previous year can be considered to be outstanding. All relevant supporting documents must be provided.

7. Nominations may be submitted in one of the two official languages of the Council of Europe: English or French, by filling out the specific Application Form which will be developed, published and disseminated by the Secretariat.

6. Pre-Selection Panel

8. The Pre-Selection Panel (PSP) of the Prize will be composed of the Chairperson of the Committee on Migration, Refugees and Displaced Persons, the Chairperson and Vice-Chairperson of the Sub-Committee on Diasporas and the Co-ordinator of the PNDP.

9. The PSP will:

- establish its working methods;
- examine application forms;
- if necessary, require further information and/or documentary proof from the applicant(s);

10. The PSP will examine the activity of the candidate associations focusing in particular on their work concerning:

- developing greater social cohesion of migrant and diaspora communities in the host countries;
- promoting migration as an opportunity for host societies;
- promoting European values and peaceful co-operation between all nations of Europe;
- implementing outstanding projects in the host country or the country of origin.

11. In the event that the PSP considers that none of the nominations put forward are sufficiently outstanding, it shall inform the PNDP members accordingly.

12. Any PSP member who believes he or she is in an actual or apparent conflict of interest with one or several applicants shall announce it to the PSP and recuse him or herself from any decision.

13. After examining the activity of candidate associations according to Paragraph 10, the PSP shall:

- shortlist the 3 most promising applications of associations and invite them to the annual Forum/regional Conference of the PNDP;
- draft a short report as to the strengths and weaknesses of the shortlisted applications, to be presented at the annual Forum/regional Conference of the PNDP.

14. The PSP shall be chaired by the Chairperson of the Committee on Migration, Refugees and Displaced Persons, or the person designated by him/her.

7. Decision on the Prize winner

15. All shortlisted associations shall be invited to the annual Forum/regional Conference of the PNDP and given an equal amount of time to present the achievements of their association. One representative per shortlisted association will have his/her participation expenses covered by the PNDP.

16. After hearing the report of the Chairperson of the PSP and the presentation of the representatives of the shortlisted associations, the Forum/regional Conference of the PNDP will decide the winner of the Prize by a simple majority vote. Each country represented in the Network will dispose of a maximum of two votes (one per MP and one per Diaspora Association).

17. The Secretariat shall organise and conduct the voting by ballot paper and votes will be counted in the presence of three tellers who will be members of the Network.

18. The name of the Prize winner shall be announced by the Co-ordinator of the PNDP and widely disseminated by the PACE. The winning association may be invited to Strasbourg on the occasion of the PACE part-session.

8. Secretariat

19. The Secretariat of the Prize will be ensured by the Secretariat of the Committee on Migration, Refugees and Displaced Persons of the PACE.