



European  
Commission

# EUROPEAN CAPITAL OF INNOVATION

A place to bring  
ideas to life



## APPLY NOW TO BECOME THE NEXT EUROPEAN CAPITAL OF INNOVATION!

The European Commission is launching a second edition of the European Capital of Innovation to celebrate the European city which is building the best “**innovation ecosystem**”, connecting citizens, public organisations, academia, and business.

The new Capital of Innovation will receive **EUR 950 000** to scale up its innovation activities.

The second and the third cities in the ranking will respectively receive **EUR 100 000** and **EUR 50 000** for networking activities.

Apply online via the contest website ([www.ec.europa.eu/icapital](http://www.ec.europa.eu/icapital)) by **18 November 2015, 17:00** (Brussels time).

Research and  
Innovation

## WHO CAN PARTICIPATE?

The contest is open to cities that:

- > are located in an **EU Member State or in a country associated to Horizon 2020**, the EU's research and innovation programme;
- > have **over 100 000 inhabitants** - in countries where there is no city with more than 100 000 inhabitants, the largest city is eligible to apply;
- > are running **innovative initiatives** which have not started before 1 January 2012; and
- > have not received a monetary prize from an EU institution for the initiatives described in their application.

*A city is understood here as an urban area and an administrative unit governed by a city council or another form of democratically elected body. Metropolitan areas, larger urban zones and conurbations are not eligible for this contest.*

## HOW WILL THE WINNER BE SELECTED?

An **independent panel of judges from business and academia** will examine and select the winner and the runner-ups who will be announced in early **2016**.

Applicant cities will be judged on how their initiatives create the right environment to innovate. They will have to demonstrate that they are following a **comprehensive strategy** that is:

- > **Innovative** - in terms of concepts, processes and tools.
- > **Inspiring** - attracting talent, resources, funding, investments.
- > **Integrated** - covering the entire innovation ecosystem and its links with Europe 2020.
- > **Interactive** - facilitating the interactions within the innovation ecosystem, particularly ensuring citizens' involvement and engagement.
- > **Impactful** - outlining the expected impact of the current initiatives and how the city plans to increase it.

## WHY DID THE EUROPEAN COMMISSION CREATE THIS AWARD?

Over 70% of Europeans live in an urban area, and these regions generate two thirds of the EU's GDP. **Cities are the drivers of the economy** and contribute the most to making Europe more innovative.

The European Commission has created the European Capital of Innovation award to acknowledge the **role of cities as places of systemic innovation**, with a capacity to connect people, places, public and private actors.

## MORE INFORMATION

Take a look at the [contest rules](#) and the [application guide](#) on the contest website ([www.ec.europa.eu/icapital](http://www.ec.europa.eu/icapital)).

Contact us via [RTD-I-CAPITAL@ec.europa.eu](mailto:RTD-I-CAPITAL@ec.europa.eu)

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