



CONVERGENCES  
Awards

**ZERO** EXCLUSION  
CARBON  
POVERTY

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## Convergences Awards

## Rules and procedures

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## 1. About the Convergences Awards

The Convergences Awards reward every year since 2011 the projects of public, private and solidarity-based partners bind for a fair and sustainable world “Zero exclusion, Zero carbon, Zero poverty”. The Convergences Awards are open to the projects answering to the following criteria:

- The project is carried by a **solidarity-based organisation**;
- **In partnership with a public and/or private organisation**;
- The project has a **high social and/or environmental impact**;
- The project is **innovative and replicable**.

The Convergences Awards want to reward projects led by a strong and innovative partnership between a solidarity-based actor and one or more private or public actors.

### a) [The Convergences Awards](#)

The Convergences Awards have **two main categories**:

- **The European Award:** rewards a project whose beneficiaries are mostly based within the European Union.
- **The International Award:** rewards a project whose beneficiaries are mostly based outside the European Union.

### b) [Special “Sustainable cities and territories” Award](#)

The jury also reserves the right to grant a **Special “Sustainable cities and territories” Award** per category if a project:

- Answers to the criteria previously enunciated;
- Is particularly innovative and relevant in order to help and support sustainable development of cities and territories.

However, the jury reserves the right not to grant this Special “Sustainable cities and territories” Award if no candidates meet the stated criteria.

## 2. Eligibility of applications

### a) [Conditions for eligibility of the solidarity-based organisation applying](#)

The Award rewards projects that are carried out by solidarity-based organisations, created **over two years ago** (date of creation before June 1<sup>st</sup>, 2014).

**Shall be considered as solidarity-based organisations:** solidarity-based economy structures, such as associations, cooperatives, mutual companies and social enterprises; NGOs.

### b) [Eligibility requirements of the partnership](#)

- i) The partnership shall either be made up of a solidarity-based organisation and one or more public and/or private organisations;
- ii) Partnerships between two solidarity-based organisations, if it implies a partnership between on a one hand a social enterprise/company and on the other hand an association or NGO.
- iii) The partnership must be **at least one year old** (date of creation before June 1<sup>st</sup>, 2015).

**Shall be considered as private organisation:** traditional companies as well as corporate foundations.

**Shall be considered as public organisations:** intergovernmental and public organisations which can be national, local or territorial, such as ministries, local authorities, public institutions, decentralized departments.

The solidarity-based organization can have more than two partner organizations.

Any type of partnership is accepted from any type of sector. These partnerships can take various forms such as:

- Skills-based volunteering;
- Technical cooperation;
- Social innovation;
- Responsible practices;
- Expertise sharing.

If a partnership is only financial, it won't be considered as an innovative partnership.

### 3. Evaluation criteria

The evaluation assesses two distinct criteria: on the one hand **the partnership**; on the other hand **the project**.

#### a) Evaluation criteria of the partnership:

- **Degree of innovation:** the partnership is more than a classic partnership structure. (If the relation between both organisations is only a financial partnership, the partnership won't be considered as innovative)
- **Scale-up possibility:** the partnership can develop its scale
- **Sustainability:** the partnership is established for 2 years, 5 years ...
- **Possible replication:** the partnership can be replicated by other organisations, on other territories or lead to another project
- **Combination of skills:** the partnership allows the organisations to share additional skills

#### b) Evaluation criteria of the project:

- **Relevance of the issue:** the project responds to a real social or environmental issue
- **Degree of innovation:** the project provides an innovation answer
- **Proven social or environmental impact:** the project has proven impact towards beneficiaries
- **Possible replication:** the project can be replicated by other organisations, on other territories or target other beneficiaries.
- **Economic viability:** the project is viable in the medium to long term, and can survive even if the partnership ends.

### 4. Application and judging procedures

Participation is free of charge. Candidates apply by filling **the application form available online for download at [www.convergences.org](http://www.convergences.org) and e-mail it at [awards@convergences.org](mailto:awards@convergences.org) before April 17<sup>th</sup>, 2016 at 12am.**

Two judging panels will consider all applications:

- The European Jury : composed of representatives from public, private and solidarity-based sectors
- The International Jury : composed of representatives from public, private and solidarity-based sectors

#### a) Eligibility

The shortlisted candidates are announced on **April 27<sup>th</sup>, 2016**.

When applications are closed, the judges shortlist the eligible applications.

#### b) Semi-final

After a debating session, the judges nominate 3 candidates per category (Europe and International) on May 12<sup>th</sup>, 2016.

Only the eligible applications will be passed to the jury. The judging panels will examine and grade the applications. After deliberation during the semi-final the jury will announce 3 nominees for the European Award and 3 nominees for the International Award.

#### c) Final

The nominees will be invited to make a 30-minute oral presentation of their project before the jury in Paris during the first week of June 2016. International candidates can present their project by videoconference.

The travel expenses are the responsibility of the nominees.

## 5. Awarding prizes and endowment

#### a) The Awards ceremony

The Awards ceremony, welcomes and rewards each laureate of each category with a certificate during the Convergences World Forum in September in Paris City Hall..

#### b) Nominees' rewards

- i. Six 3-day tickets for the Convergences World Forum on September 2016
- ii. A session dedicated to the nominees during the Convergences World Forum on September 2016
- iii. High visibility on the Convergences World Forum communication material
- iv. A stand shared with all the nominees at the Professional Marketplace within the Convergences World Forum
- v. An article dedicated to each nominee project on Convergences' website: [www.convergences.org](http://www.convergences.org)
- vi. A full page for each project in the Convergences Award Booklet 2016.

#### c) Laureates' rewards

The laureates receive all the rewards mentioned above.

The laureates also receive Convergences' network support:

- i. A special opportunity to meet influential Convergences partners and the jury members (subject to approval)
- ii. Articles that will be published during one months on Convergences' networks

- iii. A visibility campaign (banners, editorials and videos) on the websites, newsletter and all Convergences networks
- iv. An article published by one of Convergences' media partners (subject to approval)

## 6. The jury

The jury consists in various professionals from the private, public and solidarity sectors. Its members may change from year to year.

The final list of the 2016 jury members will be released **at the end of April 2016**.

## 7. Calendar 2015

<b>Thursday, February 11<sup>th</sup></b>	Opening of application
<b>Sunday, April 17<sup>th</sup></b>	Closing date of application
<b>Wednesday, April 27<sup>th</sup></b>	Announcement of eligible candidates
<b>Thursday, May 12<sup>th</sup></b>	Semi-final: Nominees selection by the jury
<b>Friday, May 13<sup>th</sup></b>	Announcement of the Nominees
<b>First week of June</b>	Final: oral presentation of nominees' projects before the jury
<b>Beginning of September</b>	Release of the booklet presenting all projects which submitted their candidacy for the 2015 Convergences Awards
<b>Wednesday, September 7<sup>th</sup></b>	Award Ceremony: announcement of the laureates