



CONVERGENCES  
Awards

**ZERO EXCLUSION  
CARBON  
POVERTY**

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# CONVERGENCES AWARDS

## RULES AND PROCEDURES

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## 1. About

### 1.1 What is Convergences

Launched in 2008, Convergences is the platform for thought, advocacy and mobilisation in Europe to promote the UN's Sustainable Development Goals and the development of a "Zero Exclusion, Zero Carbon, Zero Poverty" world. Its mission is to organise debates, mobilise actions, spread good practices and encourage the co-construction of partnerships and innovative solutions.

Convergences relies on more than 200 partner organisations represented within its working groups to co-organise the Convergences World Forum, which gathers more than 5000 participants every year, to write studies and publications, and to organise events throughout the year.

Our scope of interest is wide-ranging: sustainable development, international development, solidarity-based and inclusive finance, Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR), social entrepreneurship, social and solidarity economy, and new technologies for the common good.

### 1.2 About the Convergences Awards

Every year since 2011, the Convergences Awards reward the best projects initiated by public, private and solidarity-based partners seeking to build a fair and sustainable future and a "Zero exclusion, Zero carbon, Zero poverty" world.

The Convergences Awards are open to **projects** carried out by several organisations from different sectors. The project must have a **high social and/or environmental impact**; it must also be **innovative and replicable**.

In 2018, **submitted projects must be related to one of the following topics (UNSDGs):**

- Zero Hunger
- Good health and well-being
- Quality education
- Decent work and economic growth
- Sustainable Cities and Communities

**The Convergences Awards have 3 categories:**

- a. Convergences-IPPAG International Award
- b. Convergences International Research Award (supported by IRD)
- c. Special Honorary Award

Find out more about the specific criteria related to each of the categories in the eligibility section.

## 2. Eligibility of applications

The Convergences Awards reward projects carried out by solidarity-based organisations or academic/research organisations **AND** carried out in partnership with other public or private organisations.

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

**Shall be considered as academic/research organisations:** Universities and undergraduate and postgraduate schools, public or private research institutes.

**Shall be considered as private organisations:** 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, etc.

### 2.1 Eligibility requirements applying to all the applications

#### a. Focal Point criteria

Among the partners, one organisation must be the focal point for the application process. **Only solidarity based organisations or academic/research organisations can be the focal point.**

**The focal point organisation must have been created over two years ago** (Creation date before January 1<sup>st</sup> 2016).

#### b. Multi actor criteria:

The partnership shall either be made up of a solidarity-based organisation **or** an academic/research organisation **with** one or more other organisations (public, private, solidarity based, and academic organisations);

The Award rewards projects that are carried out by several partners, including at least one **solidarity-based organisation; there can be more than two partner organisations in the partnership;**

**Partnerships between two solidarity-based organisations are eligible**, if they imply a partnership between a social enterprise/company and an association or NGO;

The partnership must be **at least one year old** and already functioning (date of creation before January 1<sup>st</sup>, 2017).

#### c. Thematic criteria

**Submitted projects must be related to one of the following topics:**

- Zero Hunger
- Good health and well-being
- Quality education
- Decent work and economic growth
- Sustainable Cities and Communities



#### d. Innovation criteria

**Any type of partnership is accepted from any type of sector as long as it is innovative.** This can take various forms such as:

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

**NOTA BENE:**

If a partnership is only financial, it won't be considered as an innovative partnership. The partnership must bring a significant added-value to the project.

#### e. Good governance and financial sustainability criteria

In 2018, the Convergences Awards include a financial dotation to laureate projects. The financial strength of the applicants and their ability to make a fair use of the financial donation will be assessed throughout the selection process.

The existence of an effective impact measurement process and the sustainability of the project will also count as criteria.

## 2.2 Specific eligibility criteria

### a. Convergences-IPPAG International Award

This Award rewards a project whose beneficiaries are based outside of France and that are linked with responsible production and poverty reduction.

- Projects beneficiaries are based outside of France;
- Projects related to the "Decent work and economic growth" topic will be particularly appreciated.

### b. Convergences International Research Award (supported by IRD)

This Award rewards a project whose beneficiaries are mostly based outside of France and includes a research dimension.

- At least one of the partners must be a research organisation or assimilated;
- Projects related to water and sanitation will also be accepted and appreciated as long as they also relate to one of the 5 main topics;
- Project whose beneficiaries are based in the Mediterranean region and/or tropical regions.

### c. Special Honorary Award

The jury also reserves the right to grant a Special Honorary Award to a project whose beneficiaries are based in France or outside of France and that includes a research dimension:

- At least one of the partners must be an academic/research organisation (see definition above)
- No geographic focus

### d. Nota bene

Candidates apply indistinctly to the Convergences Awards. According to their geographical focus and whether or not they comply with the above criteria, they will be declared eligible for one or more of category of the Awards.

### 3. Evaluation criteria

The evaluation assesses three distinct criteria: quality the partnership; quality of the project; financial strength and good governance.

#### 3.1 Evaluation criteria of the partnership

- **Degree of innovation:** the partnership goes beyond a classic partnership structure (If the relation between partner organisations is only a financial partnership, the partnership won't be considered innovative);
- **Scalability capability:** the partnership can be scaled for a larger impact;
- **Sustainability:** the partnership is established for 2 years, 5 years, etc. ;
- **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.

#### 3.2 Evaluation criteria for the project

##### a. Thematic criteria

**Submitted projects must be related to one of the following topics:**

- Zero Hunger
- Good health and well-being
- Quality education
- Decent work and economic growth
- Sustainable Cities and Communities



##### b. Social Impact Criteria

- **Relevance of the issue:** the project responds to a real social or environmental issue;
- **Degree of innovation:** the project provides an innovative answer to the identified challenge;
- **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.

##### c. Financial strength and good governance criteria

- **Economic viability:** the project is viable in the medium to long term, and can survive even if the partnership ends;
- **The partner organisations have the financial strength to absorb a financial dotation** in case their project becomes the award winner;
- **The partner organisations have a reliable, transparent and efficient governance.**

## 4. Application and selection process

### 4.1 Application

Candidates can apply by filling the online application form **before March 25<sup>th</sup> at 12am**. Should you have any questions, please contact us at [awards@convergences.org](mailto:awards@convergences.org) Participation is free of charge.

### 4.2 Pre-selection based on the eligibility criteria

A first selection based on the eligibility criteria will be undertaken. Eligible applications will be announced two weeks before the semi-final.

### 4.3 Jury

The Jury is composed of professionals from Convergences' network. They are representatives from public, private and solidarity-based sectors.

**Three judging panels will consider applications, for each category of Award.** Composition of the judging panels will be announced in April 2018.

### 4.4 Public vote

The grades given to projects by the Jury will be combined with a public vote on the Awards' online platform. This public vote will represent 25% of the final grade. Therefore, it is recommended that applicants pay high attention to the way they write their responses as they will be submitted to online voting. Sensitive data will not appear on the platform.

We also advise applicants to communicate about their application and involve their community to get more votes.

### 4.5 Semi-final

After a debating session, judging panels will examine and grade the applications. After adding the grades given by the Jury (75% of final grade) and the vote of the public (25% of the grade), maximum 3 applications are nominated per award category. Only eligible applications will be sent to the jury.

### 4.6 Final

The nominees will be invited to make a 30-minute oral presentation of their project to the Jury in Paris.

The Final will be followed by an Award Ceremony. This Ceremony will be the opportunity for the nominees to present their projects and to discover the names of the award winners.

## 5. Awards Ceremony and Endowment

### 5.1 Awards Ceremony

The Awards Ceremony welcomes and rewards the award winner of each category with a certificate.

This Ceremony will gather professionals from Convergences' network. It is a great opportunity to highlight the nominees and their projects during this special event and for them to meet and exchange with the audience.

### 5.2 Endowment

#### a. Nominees

- **Six 3-day tickets** for the Convergences World Forum on September 2018
- **A session dedicated** to the nominees during the 11<sup>th</sup> Convergences World Forum
- **A booth**, shared with all the award winners within the Convergences World Forum
- **An article** dedicated to each nominee project on Convergences' website
- **A full page for each project** in the Convergences Award Booklet 2018.

#### b. Award winners

The award winners receive all the rewards mentioned above. They will also get:

- **A special opportunity to meet influential Convergences partners** and the jury members (subject to approval)
- **Articles** that will be published during one month on Convergences' networks and a **visibility campaign** (banners, editorials and videos) on the websites, newsletter and all of Convergences networks
- **An article published by one of Convergences' media partners** (subject to approval)
- **A financial dotation\*** according to the category they belong to, as follows :

Convergences-IPPAG International Award	€ 15,000
Convergences International Research Award (supported by IRD)	€ 15,000
Convergences Honorary Award	€ 10,000

**\*A dotation contract will have to be signed by the award winner(s), who will have to comply with monitoring duties.**

## 6. Calendar 2018

<b>February 23th</b>	Opening of the call for applications
<b>March 25th</b>	Closing date of applications
<b>Week of April 23th</b>	Announcement of eligible candidates & opening of the online votes
<b>Week of May 21st</b>	Semi-final
	Announcement of the nominees
<b>June</b>	Final
<b>September</b>	Participation of the Nominees and Award Winners to the 11 <sup>th</sup> Convergences World Forum & Release of the 2018 Convergences Awards Booklet.