

Istanbul Environment Friendly City Award 2016-2017

Background and context

The 19th Meeting of the Contracting Parties to the Barcelona Convention for the Protection of the Marine Environment and Coastal Region of the Mediterranean (COP19, Athens, Greece, February 2016) adopted the Decision IG 22/19: “to establish the Environment Friendly City Award to be conferred to Mediterranean Coastal cities, and name it the Istanbul Environment Friendly City Award”.

A sustainable coastal city is: “**A coastal city in harmony with the sea, utilizing its resources efficiently, equitably and sustainably, reducing its impact on marine and coastal environment and climate change, and managing the environment for the benefit of current and future generations**”. Therefore, an environment friendly city is a coastal city in which people enjoy a high quality of life and where sustainable development takes place within the carrying capacity of healthy ecosystems.

The Istanbul Award is one of the Flagship initiative recommended by the **Mediterranean Strategy for Sustainable Development 2016-2025** (MSSD 2016-2025), as requested by COP18 (Istanbul Declaration, December 2013).

The first edition of the Istanbul Award is a pilot one. **Local authorities from coastal Mediterranean cities are encouraged to apply** to the award and become role models, inspiring other towns and cities. Both small towns and metropolitan cities are eligible to apply and it is highly recommended to develop partnerships with NGOs, scientific community, private sector or other stakeholders for the submission.

The Istanbul Award will be conferred at the next meeting of the Contracting Parties to the Barcelona Convention in December 2017 (COP20, Tirana, Albania).

Objectives

The objectives of the Istanbul Environment Friendly City Award are to:

- Recognize and reward the efforts of local authorities to improve the environment and quality of life and promote sustainable development in Mediterranean Coastal towns and cities;
- Encourage local authorities to move towards a more environment friendly future;
- Enable local authorities to act a role-model to inspire other towns and cities;
- Raise the awareness of the general public regarding the quality of environment and therefore the quality of life in their towns and cities.

Eligibility criteria

- Both small towns and metropolitan cities are eligible to apply.
- It is encouraged to develop partnerships with NGOs, scientific community, private sector or other stakeholders for the submission.

Application

Applications should be submitted by the local authority of a Mediterranean coastal town or city of a Contracting Party of the Barcelona Convention, in English.

They can either be signed by the mayor (or his delegate) or be accompanied with a mayoral declaration.

The call for application is opened for 30 days, from 22 May 2017 to 23 June 2017, and Mediterranean coastal cities are invited to apply.

To apply, please download the application form on Istanbul Award web page: <http://planbleu.org/en/istanbul-environment-friendly-city-award-2016-2017>

Once completed, send the application form to: istanbul.award@planbleu.org copied to iefca@unep.org

For this first edition, which is a pilot test, the working language is English.



Evaluation

The evaluation will be undertaken through criteria defined under four main categories:

1. *Nature and Biodiversity Protection*
2. *Built Environment*
3. *Social, Economic and Cultural Sustainability*
4. *Governance*

In addition to the proposed criteria, the historical perspective of the applicant city will also be considered. The improvements observed in the city are very important regarding the city's efforts towards sustainability, the progress achieved as compared with its past, as well as the city's efforts and perspectives for further future improvement. Improvement achieved will be a benchmark criterion.

Selection process

The selection will be carried out in three steps:

- **First step: Initial screening**
 With the end of the submission deadline, an initial screening will be conducted by the UN Environment/MAP Secretariat to ensure that the candidate cities fulfill the eligibility criteria and that the submission forms are correctly filled. The Secretariat will then forward the files of the candidate cities to the Technical Committee.
- **Second step: Short-listing**
 The Technical Committee will nominate up to three candidate cities for the Award. The committee will prepare a detailed evaluation report and send these nominations electronically to the Barcelona Convention Bureau members for approval.
- **Third step: Selection**
 A public voting survey process will be launched for a period of approximately three weeks to derive a ranking between the short-listed cities. Based on the ranking of the public voting, the Jury will select the winning city.

Award giving

The Award will be conferred during the next COP meeting (17-20 December 2017, Tirana, Albania) by the President of the Bureau and the Coordinator of UN Environment/MAP.

More information

For any question about the award, please send a message to: istanbul.award@planbleu.org

All useful information are available at:

<http://planbleu.org/en/istanbul-environment-friendly-city-award-2016-2017>

Funded by the Government of Turkey, the Istanbul Award is managed by the Coordinating Unit of the Mediterranean Action Plan with the assistance of its Plan Bleu/RAC and the support of the other MAP components.