

Collecting the Stars: Launch of the third European Public Sector Award - EPSA 2011

“Assess Yourself and Learn from the Best”

After the highly successful and rewarding experiences of the previous European Public Sector Awards, the new EPSA 2011 edition is scheduled to officially “take off” in Brussels in January 2011. Just as in 2009, the 2011 edition will be organised and managed by EIPA and will count on the full support of several European countries and the European Commission.

Against the background of a rapidly changing social, economic and environmental context in the 21st Century,



EPSA contributes to the progress of public performances by highlighting exemplary models of proactive public practices that address Europe’s most pressing public concerns, whilst providing a platform for the public sector innovators behind these cases

to disseminate their achievements. In comparison to 2009, public administrations face an even more ambitious context in the aftermath of the financial and economic crisis, which poses a true challenge not only to the private, but also the public sector. Furthermore, in alignment with the EU 2020 strategy, local, regional and national public administrations are expected to meet the ambitious vision of smart, sustainable and inclusive growth for the future of the European Union. It is therefore even more important to highlight and reward public excellence in administrations that are finding innovative responses in times of budgetary constraints and are succeeding in delivering outstanding public services. In this context, the vision of EPSA and EIPA to create an arena in which Europe’s public sector institutions can excel and become exemplars for the rest of the world remains valid and is in fact reinforced.

At the current stage of writing, 10 European countries – Austria, Cyprus, Germany, Hungary, Italy, Luxembourg, the Netherlands, Poland, Spain and Switzerland – and the European Commission represented by the DG Employment, Social Affairs and Inclusion, as well as the DG Inter-institutional relations and Administration are the official partners of EPSA 2011.



Brief flashback to EPSA 2009

EPSA 2009 saw a total of 300 applications from 28 European countries and EU institutions. The majority of these came from local administrations (42%), 27% from regional level, 27% from national level and 4% as pan-European projects. Forty contestants were awarded with a best practice certificate at the Maastricht Town Hall and four trophies were handed over to the winners from a total of 20 nominees in the four themes during a spectacular final ceremony in Maastricht on 5 November 2009. For additional information on EPSA 2009, please consult www.epsa2009.eu

Bridging activities

In the months following the 2009 award ceremony honouring the most brilliant projects with the EPSA trophy, many bridging activities have already taken place, such as the last meeting of the Steering Committee of EPSA 2009 in January this year and a number of knowledge-transfer activities exploiting cases from the last edition (see list at the end of this article).

The EPSA 2011 Road-map

Following the launch event of EPSA 2011 in January in Brussels, the call for online submissions will be open from mid-January to the end of March 2011. In the period between April and July, submitted applications will be assessed by an internationally-renowned, independent and impartial pool of experts. The multiple-step evaluation process will also include onsite visits to a small number of projects per theme. The EPSA 2011 will finally be awarded on the occasion of a high-level ceremony on leading-edge public administration solutions, which will be held in **November 2011 in Maastricht (NL)**, under the auspices of the Polish Presidency and patronage of the European Commission.

The three EPSA 2011 themes

The third edition of EPSA will revolve around three (new) themes that are soon due to be chosen by the EPSA Steering Committee (representing those countries officially sponsoring the scheme). These themes address European public sector challenges and are crucial drivers for change in the way that public administrations function in the 21st Century. They provide an insight into proactive approaches of hundreds of public administrations facing the current challenges of climate change, the supply and sources of energy, demographic change, rising unemployment and social exclusion, just to name a few.

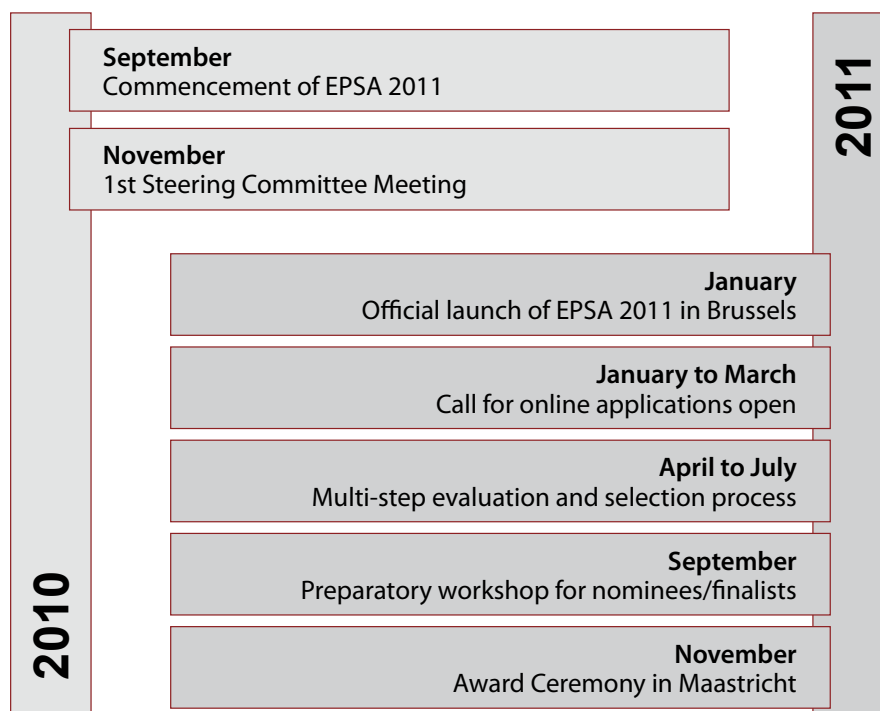
11 Good reasons for participating in EPSA 2011

There are 11 good reasons to submit your achievements to EPSA 2011, among others:

- The EPSA offers all innovative administrative areas the opportunity to be showcased and rewarded – irrespective of the size or type of the administration or the cultural sphere in which it operates.
- The EPSA offers applicants maximum benefits as a network of excellence and efficient knowledge-transfer across Europe.
- Participating administrative bodies will improve their image by publishing their results and achievements in the official EPSA publications, on the website and via other EIPA channels of dissemination.
- The travel and hotel accommodation for the participation of the EPSA 2011 nominees in the final event will be at the expense of EPSA/EIPA.

Anxious to know the other good reasons to take part? Consult our website: www.epsa2011.eu.

EPSA 2011 Road-map



“EPSA - collecting experiences and sharing best practices to deliver better services to the citizens of Europe. To me it sounds not just like a good idea but as an imperative for public sector institutions.”

A Member of the EPSA 2009 Steering Committee

Some knowledge-transfer activities in 2010 taking advantage of the EPSA 2009 cases...

- **26 November:** Keynote speech “Public Excellence: Lessons from EPSA 2009” during the Quality Contest “Excellence” organised by the Swiss Graduate School of Public Administration and the Swiss Society of Administrative Sciences, Lausanne (CH).
- **27-28 October:** First international EPSA knowledge-transfer workshop on “The EU 2020 – What public management model for the next decade?” organised by EIPA together with the Sant Cugat City Council in combination with Santcugatribuna in Sant Cugat, Barcelona (ES). For more information, download the information package: <http://seminars.eipa.eu>
- **21-23 June:** 2010 United Nations Public Service Day – Awards Ceremony and Forum, Barcelona (ES) <http://www.unpan.org/2010unpsa>
- **11-12 May:** EPSA knowledge-transfer day on “Citizen Involvement” within the seminar “La e-Administración: Una administración mas cercana a la ciudadanía”, organised together with the Basque Institute of Public Administration (IVAP), Vitoria (ES)
- **January/April:** Comparative analysis/research assignment of relevant cases for Norwegian municipalities based on the EPSA 2009, under the Nordic Project “New Public Leadership” and contribution to the Nordic Research Council meeting in June, Trondheim (NO)

A complete overview of the knowledge-transfer activities can be found on: www.epsa2009.eu



For more detailed information please consult the **EPSA Team** via the EPSA helpdesk, Tel.: +31 (0) 43 32 96 278
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