



Erasmus+ Programme (ERASMUS)

Call for a prize — Rules of Contest

#BeInclusive EU Sport Awards

ERASMUS-SPORT-2023-BE-INCLUSIVE-SPORT-AWARDS

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EUROPEAN EDUCATION AND CULTURE EXECUTIVE AGENCY (EACEA)

EACEA.A – Erasmus+, EU Solidarity Corps
A.3 – Erasmus Mundus, Sport

CALL FOR APPLICATIONS – RULES OF CONTEST

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0. Introduction

This is a call (contest)¹ for an EU **prize** in the field of Sport under the **Erasmus+ Programme**.

The regulatory framework for this EU Funding is set out in:

- Regulation 2018/1046 ([EU Financial Regulation](#))
- Regulation [2021/817](#)² establishing Erasmus+.

This call is launched in accordance with the E+ 2023 Work Programme³. It will be managed by the **European Education and Culture Executive Agency (EACEA)** ('Agency').

The call covers the following **topics**:

- ERASMUS-SPORT-2023-BEINCLUSIVE-SPORT-AWARDS-GENDER - #BeInclusive - **Promoting Gender Equality in sport "Be Equal"**
- ERASMUS-SPORT-2023-BEINCLUSIVE-SPORT-AWARDS-PEACE - #BeInclusive - **Sport for Peace**
- ERASMUS-SPORT-2023-BEINCLUSIVE-SPORT-AWARDS-BBSA - #BeInclusive - **Breaking Barriers in sport**

We invite you to read the call documentation on the Funding & Tenders Portal Topic page carefully, and in particular these Rules of Contest and the EU Funding & Tenders Portal Online Manual.

These documents provide clarifications and answers to questions you may have when preparing your application:

- the Call Document (Rules of Contest) outlines the:
 - background, objectives, scope, activities that can be funded and the expected results (sections 1 and 2)
 - available budget and timetable (sections 3 and 4)
 - admissibility and eligibility conditions (including mandatory documents; sections 5 and 6)
 - criteria for exclusion (section 7)
 - evaluation and award procedure (section 8)
 - award criteria (section 9)
 - other conditions (section 10)

¹ For ease of reference and consistency on the Funding & Tenders Portal, the terms 'call', 'project' and 'participant' are used as equivalent to 'contest', 'application' or 'contestants/applicants'.

² Regulation (EU) 2021/817 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 20 May 2021 establishing Erasmus+: the Union Programme for education and training, youth and sport (OJ L 189, 28.5.2021, p. 1).

³ C(2023) 1482 of 9 March 2023 amending the Commission Implementing Decision C(2022)6002 on the financing of Erasmus+: the Union Programme for Education, Training, Youth and Sport and the adoption of the work programme for 2023.

- how to submit an application (section 11)
- the [Online Manual](#) outlines the procedures to register and submit applications online via the EU Funding & Tenders Portal ('Portal').

You are also encouraged to visit the [#BeInclusive website](#) to consult the list of prizes funded previously.

1. Background

Since 2017 the #BeInclusive EU Sport Awards recognise and celebrate the achievements of sport organisations and stakeholders promoting inclusion through sport. These Awards target in particular actions concerning groups with fewer opportunities and in social difficulty, people with disabilities, migrants and refugees, ethnic minorities, etc. These awards also include a gender equality dimension.

Sport is now widely recognised as a privileged tool to promote inclusion. Sport and physical activity clearly contributes to EU priorities as expressed in policy documents such as the EU Anti-Racism Action Plan, the LGBTIQ Equality Strategy, the Gender Equality Strategy or the Strategy for the rights of persons with disabilities.

The #BeInclusive EU Sport initiative is therefore a major occasion to highlight the significant contribution of sport to an Union of equity and values.

The **Erasmus+ programme 2021-2027** integrates diversity and inclusion as horizontal priorities. This programme supports in particular initiatives combating violence, racism, discrimination and intolerance.

The #BeInclusive EU Sport Awards aims at emphasizing exemplary initiatives from the sport field. Already now, the #BeInclusive EU Sport Awards winners showcase the achievements of grassroots organisations in fostering inclusion by combining sport, participation, skills development and/or addressing children and youth.

2. Objectives – Themes and priorities – Activities– Expected results

Objectives

The #BeInclusive EU sport Awards 2023 (hereafter referred to as the 'Awards') aim to reward and give visibility to the best projects that have successfully supported inclusion through sport. Projects can include disadvantaged, marginalized or underprivileged groups such as individuals with difficult social, economic or educational backgrounds, people with a disability, health problems or cultural differences, etc. This #BeInclusive EU sport Awards will also support gender equality. It will also contribute to Peace through the integration of migrants and refugees.

Besides rewarding specific organisations the #BeInclusive EU sport Awards 2023 will also give visibility and support the dissemination of innovative ideas, initiatives and best practices throughout Europe.

Expected results

The awards will feature the following three categories:

- **Promoting Gender Equality in sport "Be Equal"**

To reward projects promoting the empowerment and participation of women and girls in sport. This category would celebrate role models who make gender equality a reality by

setting an inspiring example. This directly follows the Report of the High Level Group on gender Equality in Sport⁴.

- **Sport for Peace**

To reward projects using sport as a vehicle to promote peace and European values. This category would particularly target initiatives promoting the inclusion of refugees, such as in the context of the war in Ukraine.

- **Breaking Barriers in Sport**

To reward sport projects that promote inclusion, dialogue and tolerance, emphasizing the benefits of understanding each other and overcoming obstacles to participation. This category would reward initiatives that support disadvantaged groups, such as ethnic minorities, people with disabilities or vulnerable young people, to meet social challenges.

The winner and the finalists (ranked 2nd and 3rd) in each category will be awarded to inspire other organisations and individuals around Europe. They will all be announced and showcased at the award ceremony and will receive their prizes.

3. Available budget

The prize global budget is EUR 45 000 and each of the three categories will reward one winner with EUR 10 000 and two finalists (ranked 2nd and 3rd) with EUR 2 500 each

4. Timetable and deadlines

| Timetable and deadlines | |
|---|--|
| Call opening: | 29 June 2023 |
| <u>Deadline for submission:</u> | 28 September 2023 – 17:00 CET (Brussels) |
| Evaluation: | October 2023 – March 2024 |
| Information on evaluation results/ award: | March 2024 |

⁴ [Recommendations and action plan from the High Level Group on Gender Equality in sport \(2022\)](#)

5. Admissibility and documents

Applications must be submitted before the **call deadline** (see *timetable section 4*).

Applications must be submitted **electronically** via the Funding & Tenders Portal Electronic Submission System (accessible via the Topic page in the [Search Funding & Tenders](#) section). Paper submissions are NOT possible.

Applications (including annexes and supporting documents) must be submitted using the forms provided *inside* the Submission System (⚠ NOT the documents available on the Topic page — they are only for information).

Applications must be **complete** and contain all the requested information and all required annexes and supporting documents:

- Application Form Part A — contains administrative information about the applicant organisations (*to be filled in directly online*)
- Application Form Part B — contains the technical description of the application (*to be downloaded from the Portal Submission System, completed and then assembled and re-uploaded as PDF in the system*)
- mandatory annexes and supporting documents (*to be uploaded*): none

Your application must be **readable, accessible, printable**.

Applications are limited to **20 pages** (Part B). Evaluators will not consider any additional pages.

You may be asked at a later stage for further documents (*for legal entity validation, bank account validation, ethics review, declaration of honour, etc*).

- For more information about the submission process (including IT aspects), consult the [Online Manual](#).

6. Eligibility

Eligible participants (eligible countries)

In order to be eligible, the applicants must:

- be legal entities (natural persons, public or private bodies, including international organisations⁵)
- be established in one of the eligible countries, i.e.:
 - EU Member States (including overseas countries and territories (OCTs))
 - non-EU countries:
 - listed EEA countries and countries associated to the Erasmus+ Programme ([associated countries](#)) or countries which are in ongoing negotiations for an association agreement and where the agreement enters into force before grant signature
- Individuals are not eligible .

⁵ For the legal definition, see Article 156 EU Financial Regulation [2018/1046](#).

All applicants must register in the [Participant Register](#) — before the call deadline — and will have to be validated by the Central Validation Service (REA Validation). For the validation, you will be requested to upload documents showing legal status and origin.

Specific cases

Entities without legal personality — Entities which do not have legal personality under their national law may exceptionally participate, provided that their representatives have the capacity to undertake legal obligations on their behalf, and offer guarantees for the protection of the EU financial interests equivalent to that offered by legal persons⁶.

Countries currently negotiating association agreements — Applicants from countries with ongoing negotiations (see above) may participate in the call and can receive a prize if the negotiations are concluded before the award.

EU bodies — EU bodies (with the exception of the European Commission Joint Research Centre) can NOT apply.

EU restrictive measures — Special rules apply for certain entities (e.g. entities subject to [EU restrictive measures](#) under Article 29 of the Treaty on the European Union (TEU) and Article 215 of the Treaty on the Functioning of the EU (TFEU)⁷ and entities covered by Commission Guidelines No [2013/C 205/05](#)⁸). Such entities are not eligible to participate in any capacity.

 For more information, see [Rules for Legal Entity Validation, LEAR Appointment and Financial Capacity Assessment](#).

Eligible activities

Eligible activities are the ones set out in section 2 above.

This competition concerns any organisation or public authority (individuals are not eligible) which has successfully implemented a sport project aimed at inclusion, carried out in the EU Member States or third countries associated to the programme. The projects will not necessarily be transnational projects nor will necessarily be EU-supported.

Projects that are still in the development phase and have not yet been implemented are not eligible.

Geographic location (target countries)

Applications must relate to activities in the eligible countries.

Ethics and values

Projects must comply with:

⁶ See Article 197(2)(c) EU Financial Regulation [2018/1046](#).

⁷ Please note that the EU Official Journal contains the official list and, in case of conflict, its content prevails over that of the [EU Sanctions Map](#).

⁸ Commission guidelines No [2013/C 205/05](#) on the eligibility of Israeli entities and their activities in the territories occupied by Israel since June 1967 for grants, prizes and financial instruments funded by the EU from 2014 onwards (OJEU C 205 of 19.07.2013, pp. 9-11).

- highest ethical standards
- EU values based on Article 2 of the Treaty on the European Union and Article 21 of the EU Charter of Fundamental Rights and
- other applicable EU, international and national law (including the General Data + Protection Regulation [2016/679](#)).

Applicants must show in section 4.1 of their application that they respect ethical principles and EU values based on Article 2 of the Treaty on the European Union and Article 21 EU Charter of Fundamental Rights⁹.

Security

Applications involving EU classified information must comply with Decision [2015/444](#)¹⁰ and its implementing rules. Applications that are too security-sensitive cannot be awarded a prize.

7. Exclusion

Applicants which are subject to an **EU exclusion decision** or in one of the following **exclusion situations** that bar them from receiving EU funding can NOT participate¹¹:

- bankruptcy, winding up, affairs administered by the courts, arrangement with creditors, suspended business activities or other similar procedures (including procedures for persons with unlimited liability for the applicant's debts)
- in breach of social security or tax obligations (including if done by persons with unlimited liability for the applicant's debts)
- guilty of grave professional misconduct¹² (including if done by persons having powers of representation, decision-making or control, beneficial owners or persons who are essential for the award/implementation of the prize)
- committed fraud, corruption, links to a criminal organisation, money laundering, terrorism-related crimes (including terrorism financing), child labour or human trafficking (including if done by persons having powers of representation, decision-making or control, beneficial owners or persons who are essential for the award/implementation of the prize)
- shown significant deficiencies in complying with main obligations under an EU procurement contract, grant agreement, prize, expert contract, or similar (including if done by persons having powers of representation, decision-making or control, beneficial owners or persons who are essential for the award/implementation of the prize)

⁹ See Article 2 of the Consolidated versions of the Treaty on European Union and the Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union [2012/C 326/01](#); Article 21 of the Charter of Fundamental Rights of the European Union [2012/C 326/02](#).

¹¹ See Articles 136 and 141 EU Financial Regulation [2018/1046](#).

¹¹ See Articles 136 and 141 EU Financial Regulation [2018/1046](#).

¹² Professional misconduct includes: violation of ethical standards of the profession, wrongful conduct with impact on professional credibility, false declarations/misrepresentation of information, participation in a cartel or other agreement distorting competition, violation of IPR, attempting to influence decision-making processes or obtain confidential information from public authorities to gain advantage.

- guilty of irregularities within the meaning of Article 1(2) of Regulation No [2988/95](#) (including if done by persons having powers of representation, decision-making or control, beneficial owners or persons who are essential for the award/implementation of the prize)
- created under a different jurisdiction with the intent to circumvent fiscal, social or other legal obligations in the country of origin or created another entity with this purpose (including if done by persons having powers of representation, decision-making or control, beneficial owners or persons who are essential for the award/implementation of the prize).

Applicants will also be refused if it turns out that¹³:

- during the award procedure they misrepresented information required as a condition for participating or failed to supply that information
- they were previously involved in the preparation of the call and this entails a distortion of competition that cannot be remedied otherwise (conflict of interest).

8. Evaluation and award procedure

A **pre-selection** will take place in order to select the best 10 projects per category.

Applications will then be subject to an evaluation by a **Jury** composed by recognized experts in the field of sport and physical activity.

The pre-selection panel and the jury usually will have a different composition, but jury members may participate in the pre-selection panel.

The pre-selection panel/jury will evaluate each application against the award criteria.

For applications with the same score, the pre-selection panel/jury will determine a **priority order** according to the following approach: The score for the criterion No 1 will be given a weight of 2 and the score for criterion No 3 will be given a weight of 1.5. If two or more applications still tie for any rank or category, the prize will be equally divided and awarded to all applications with the same score.

On the basis of the evaluation by the jury (and after the mandatory checks: *ethics review, security scrutiny, legal entity validation, non-exclusion, double funding and plagiarism*), the awarding authority will decide on the award of the prize.

A winner and two finalists (ranked 2nd and 3rd) will be awarded a #BeInclusive Sport Award under each category.

All applications will be informed about the evaluation result (**evaluation result letter**). Successful applications will be awarded the prize; the not successful ones will be rejected.

If you believe that the evaluation procedure was flawed, you can submit a **complaint** (following the deadlines and procedures set out in the evaluation result letter). Please note that notifications are deemed to have been accessed (and received) 10 days after sending and that deadlines will be counted from then (see also [Funding & Tenders Portal Terms and Conditions](#)).

¹³ See Article 141(1) EU Financial Regulation [2018/1046](#).

9. Award criteria

If admissible and eligible, the applications will be evaluated and ranked against the following **award criteria**:

Award criterion 1 : **Relevance**

Depending on each category , to what extent the project:

- is aligned with the purpose of the prize for each individual category
- successfully supports inclusion through sport of the following target groups: disadvantaged, marginalized or underprivileged groups, people with a disability, health problems, as migrants, refugees, people belonging to ethnic minorities, etc. or any other group that faces challenging social circumstances not expressly mentioned.
- outreaches to citizens with limited access to sport activities and its contribution to the fight against discrimination.
- promotes actions against discrimination, gender equality and intergenerational sport.
- in line with the European Green Deal and the Healthylifestyle4all initiative.

Award criterion 2 : **Quality**

Quality of the overall design of the sport project developed and of the methodology used to implement them, including its creative/innovative character. Quality of the activities implemented in the sport project developed in the field of inclusion.

Award criterion 3 : **Impact**

Impact on its participants and their communities, from both a qualitative and a quantitative point of view, according to its budget and the size of the project. Benefits for the participants beyond the sport practice (for example, job placement activities, language learning, empowerment, etc...). The sustainability of the project over time and its replicability in another context of the EU. The communication actions, both online and offline, undertaken by the project.

| Award criteria | Minimum pass score | Maximum score |
|------------------------------|--------------------|---------------|
| Relevance | 20 | 40 |
| Quality- | 10 | 20 |
| Impact | 20 | 40 |
| Overall (pass) scores | 60 | 100 |

Maximum points: 100 points.

Individual thresholds: 20/40 10/20 20/40 points.

Overall threshold: 60 points.

Applications must pass both the individual thresholds AND the overall threshold. The prize will be awarded to the application with the best scores. Other applications will be rejected.

10. Other conditions

Payment arrangements

The prize money will be paid to the prize winners and finalists (ranked 2nd and 3rd) after the award ceremony, provided all the requested documents have been submitted. In case of a group of winners, the payment will be made to the lead applicant.

Communication – Dissemination – Visibility of funding

Prize winners and finalists (ranked 2nd and 3rd) are expected to promote the prize and its results, by providing targeted information to multiple audiences (including the media and the public) in a strategic and effective manner.

Communication activities related to the prize (*including media interviews, press statements, presentations, etc., in electronic form, via traditional or social media, etc.*), must acknowledge EU support and display the European flag (emblem) and funding statement (translated into local languages, where appropriate):



Funded by the
European Union



Co-funded by the
European Union



Funded by the
European Union



Co-funded by the
European Union

The emblem must remain distinct and separate and cannot be modified by adding other visual marks, brands or text.

Apart from the emblem, no other visual identity or logo may be used to highlight the EU support.

When displayed in association with other logos (*e.g. of winners or sponsors*), the emblem must be displayed at least as prominently and visibly as the other logos.

For the purposes of these obligations, the winners and finalists (ranked 2nd and 3rd) may use the emblem without first obtaining approval from the awarding authority. This does not, however, give them the right to exclusive use. Moreover, they may not appropriate the emblem or any similar trademark or logo, either by registration or by any other means.

Any communication or dissemination activity related to the prize must use factually accurate information.

Moreover, it must indicate the following disclaimer (translated into local languages where appropriate):

“Funded by the European Union. Views and opinions expressed are however those of the author(s) only and do not necessarily reflect those of the European Union or EACEA. Neither the European Union nor the awarding authority can be held responsible for them.”

IPR – Rights of use

The awarding authority does not obtain ownership of the results produced in the context of the prize.

The awarding authority has the right to use non-sensitive information relating to the prize and materials and documents received from the winners and finalists (ranked 2nd and 3rd) (*such as pictures or audio-visual material, in paper or electronic form*) for information, communication, dissemination and publicity purposes.

Photos and videos taken by the awarding authority either in preparation of the award ceremony or during the award ceremony are the sole property of the awarding authority.

Checks, audits and investigations

The awarding authority, the European Commission, the European Anti-Fraud Office (OLAF), the European Public Prosecutor's Office (EPPO) and the European Court of Auditors (ECA) may carry out checks, audits and investigations in relation to the prize.¹⁴

¹⁴ For the powers of OLAF, EPPO and ECA, see Regulation (EU, Euratom) No 883/2013 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 11 September 2013 concerning investigations conducted by the European Anti-Fraud Office (OLAF) and repealing Regulation (EC) No 1073/1999 of the European Parliament and of the Council and Council Regulation (Euratom) No 1074/1999 (OJ L 248, 18/09/2013, p. 1), Council Regulation (Euratom, EC) No 2185/1996 of 11 November 1996 concerning on-the-spot checks and inspections carried out by the Commission in order to protect the European Communities' financial interests against fraud and other irregularities (OJ L 292, 15/11/1996, p. 2), Council Regulation (EU) 2017/1939 of 12 October 2017 implementing enhanced cooperation on the establishment of the European Public Prosecutor's Office ('the EPPO') and Article 287 of the Treaty on the Functioning of the EU (TFEU) and Article 257 of EU Financial Regulation 2018/1046.

Withdrawal of the prize – Recovery of undue amounts

The awarding authority may withdraw the prize after its award and recover all payments made, if it finds out that:

- false information, fraud or corruption was used to obtain it
- the prize winners and finalists were not eligible or should have been excluded or
- the prize winners and finalists were not eligible or should have been excluded or are in serious breach of their obligations under these Rules of Contest.

11. How to submit an application

All applications must be submitted directly online via the Funding & Tenders Portal Electronic Submission System. Paper applications are NOT accepted.

You can access the Portal [here](#), or by clicking 'Apply now' on the official prize webpage.

Submission is a 2-step process:

a) create a user account and register your organisation

To use the Submission System (the only way to apply), all participants need to [create an EULogin user account](#).

Once you have an EULogin account, you can [register your organisation](#) in the Participant Register. When your registration is finalised, you will receive a 9-digit participant identification code (PIC).

b) submit the application

Access the Electronic Submission System via the Topic page in the [Search Funding & Tenders](#) section.

Submit your application in 3 parts, as follows:

- Part A includes administrative information about the applicant organisations . Fill it in directly online
- Part B (description of the action) covers the technical content of the application. Download the mandatory word template from the Submission System, fill it in and upload it as a PDF file
- Annexes (if any; *see section 5*): None

The application must keep to the **page limits** (*see section 5*); excess pages will be disregarded.

Documents must be uploaded to the **right category** in the Submission System otherwise the application might be considered incomplete and thus inadmissible.

The application must be submitted **before the call deadline** (*see section 4*). After this deadline, the system is closed and applications can no longer be submitted.

Once the application is submitted, you will receive a **confirmation e-mail** (with date and time of your application). If you do not receive this confirmation e-mail, it means your application has NOT been submitted. If you believe this is due to a fault in the Submission System, you should immediately file a complaint via the [IT Helpdesk webform](#), explaining the circumstances and attaching a copy of the application (and, if possible, screenshots to show what happened).

Details on processes and procedures are described in the [Online Manual](#). The Online Manual also contains the links to FAQs and detailed instructions regarding the Portal Electronic Exchange System.

12. Help

Additional information can be found:

- [Online Manual](#)
- [Prize Website](#)
- [Portal FAQ](#) (for general questions).

Please also consult the Topic page regularly, since we will use it to publish call updates.

Contact

For individual questions on the Portal Submission System, please contact the [IT Helpdesk](#).

Non-IT related questions should be sent to the following email address: eacea-sport@ec.europa.eu

Please indicate clearly the reference of the call and topic to which your question relates (*see cover page*).

13. Important



IMPORTANT

- **Don't wait until the end** — Complete your application sufficiently in advance of the deadline to avoid any last minute **technical problems**. Problems due to last minute submissions (*e.g. congestion, etc.*) will be entirely at your risk. Call deadlines can NOT be extended.
- **Consult** the Portal Topic page regularly. We will use it to publish updates and additional information on the call (call updates).
- **Funding & Tenders Portal Electronic Exchange System** — By submitting the application, all applicants **accept** to use the electronic exchange system in accordance with the [Portal Terms & Conditions](#).
- **Registration** — Before submitting the application, all applicants must be registered in the [Participant Register](#). The participant identification code (PIC) (one per applicant) is mandatory for the Application Form.
- **Joint applications** — Joint applications by a group of applicants are admitted. In this case, you must appoint a lead applicant (coordinator) to submit the application and represent you towards the awarding authority. All applicants will be jointly responsible and must all fulfil and respect the conditions set out in these Rules of Contest.
- **No double funding** — There is a strict prohibition of double funding from the EU budget. Applications that have already received an EU prize cannot receive a second prize for the same activities.
- **Resubmission** — Applications may be changed and re-submitted until the deadline for submission. For first past the post prizes with cut-off dates, applications can be changed and re-submitted until the cut-off date; the re-submission may however let you use your position as first in place.
- **Rejection** — By submitting the application, all applicants accept the call conditions set out in these Rules of Contest (and the documents they refer to). Applications that do not comply with all the call conditions will be **rejected**. This applies also to applicants: All applicants need to fulfil the criteria; if any one of them doesn't, they must be replaced or the entire application will be rejected.
- **Cancellation** — The awarding authority may cancel the contest or decide not to award the prize — without any obligation to compensate participants (*e.g. no applications, jury cannot determine winner, winner is not eligible or must be excluded, objectives have already been achieved, etc*). In this case, you will be informed via a call update.
- **Language** — You can submit your application in any official EU language. However, for reasons of efficiency, we strongly advise you to use English. If you need the call documentation in another official EU language, please submit a request within 10 days after call publication (for the contact information, see *section 12*).

- **Transparency** — In accordance with Article 38 of the [EU Financial Regulation](#), information about EU prizes awarded and the winners (name, address and amount awarded) is published each year on the [Europa website](#).

The publication can exceptionally be waived (on reasoned and duly substantiated request), if there is a risk that the disclosure could jeopardise your rights and freedoms under the EU Charter of Fundamental Rights or harm your commercial interests.

- **Data protection** — Any processing of personal data in the context of this prize will be done in accordance with Regulation [2018/1725](#). It will be processed solely for the purpose of evaluating your application (and subsequent management of your prize and, if needed, programme monitoring, evaluation and communication). Details are explained in the [Funding & Tenders Portal Privacy Statement](#).

By submitting the application, all applicants accept that the awarding authority will publish information on the finalists and winners.