



2023 .eu Web Awards Rules

Article 1. Organisation of the .eu Web Awards

The .eu Web Awards are an online competition in which prizes ('Awards') are awarded to five (5) .eu, .euo or .eu websites that best fit the criteria outlined below, in accordance with these rules ('Rules'). The Awards are organised by EURid vzw ('EURid'), based in Telecomlaan 9, 1831 Diegem, Belgium (RPR Brussel - VAT BE 0864.240.405). The Awards are exclusively subject to Belgian law, and any disputes relating to these Awards shall be submitted exclusively to the competent court in Brussels.

The nomination and voting period runs from 18 April 2023 (12:00:00 PM CEST) up to and including 18 August 2023 (11:59:59 PM CEST) (hereinafter referred to as 'Awards Term'). Early and late entries will not be considered.

Any individual aged eighteen (18) years or over who is a resident in a Member State of the European Union, Liechtenstein, Iceland, or Norway, or who is an EU citizen throughout the Awards Term and who has accepted these Rules (hereinafter referred to as an 'Entrant') can nominate a .eu, .euo or .eu website for an Award, with the exception of members of the jury and their respective family members (where family is defined as persons living under the same roof or second-degree relatives). Each single Entrant (identified via email address) can nominate as many different .eu, .euo or .eu websites as they like, but each website can be nominated only once. **Nominations of previous .eu Web Awards winners are not accepted.** Entrants are not eligible for any prize or award under these Awards unless they nominate their own .eu, .euo or .eu website and it wins an Award.

EURid reserves the right to exclude any Entrant or Nominee (**the company, organisation or individual who is the current holder of the nominated website**) from the Awards at any time in the event of a breach of these Rules. This policy is equally applicable if EURid, at its sole discretion, believes that any Entrant or Nominee has acted or intends to act in a dishonest or fraudulent manner, or in bad faith. Entrants and Nominees may be asked to submit proof of their identity, residence, and/or age at any time.

EURid reserves the right, at its sole discretion, to disqualify any person who corrupts or breaches the proper conduct of the Awards or attempts to damage or otherwise undermine the legitimate operation of the Awards.

Websites belonging to EURid's accredited registrars, or relating to any of EURid's accredited registrar activities or projects, are excluded. EURid reserves the right to change the category in which a site is nominated should another classification – at EURid or the jury's sole discretion – be considered better suited to the particular site.

By participating in the Awards, each Entrant and Nominee accepts these Rules, as well as any possible decision made by the jury in relation to the Awards. The jury's decision will be final, binding, and may not be contested. No correspondence will be entered into regarding the Awards, the outcome thereof, or the application of the Rules. EURid will not be liable for any decision of the jury, any change to the Rules, or the cancellation of the Awards in the event of force majeure or any other reason beyond EURid's control.

Article 2. The Awards process

Participation in the Awards is only possible and valid during the Awards Term, as defined above in Article 1. In order for an Awards entry to be valid, each Entrant must follow the mandatory steps outlined below:

- **Submit their own or preferred .eu, .europa.eu or .eu website via the submission form on webawards.eurid.eu.** Any Award nomination sent by post or any other means of communication will be invalid and may not be considered.
- **Select one of the Award categories for which to submit the entry:**
 - **The LEADERS category:** This category refers to websites that represent small or medium-sized enterprises (SMEs) or established national businesses that have been in operation for more than five years. These businesses have a stable customer base and are established players in their respective industries.
 - **The RISING STARS category:** This category refers to websites that represent newly established start-up companies that are still in the process of developing and finding their place in the market. These companies have no more than three years of experience in their respective industry.
 - **The LAURELS category:** This category refers to websites that represent organizations or institutions that are not-for-profit and have a mission to promote ongoing education or pan-European projects. Examples of such organizations include schools, training programs, and charitable organizations.
 - **The BETTER WORLD category:** This category refers to websites that support European green values initiatives and provide information on environmental protection, promote environmentally friendly activities and showcase green projects. This encompasses a broad range of topics, including eHealth, Smart Cities, Intelligent Transport solutions, and Smart Agriculture, among others.
 - **The HOUSE of .eu category:** This category refers to websites or blogs that represent private individuals or companies in the news or media industry. They aim to provide factual news and combat disinformation or fake news. It also includes websites or blogs related to the art or entertainment industry, advertising agencies, galleries, and other similar businesses.
- **Enter your full name and a functioning email address.**
- **Special Commendation:** Entrants nominating a Nominee falling under a “Youth” category are invited to check the dedicated box during the nomination process. Youth is defined as an entrepreneur or a private individual between ages 18-30.
- **Accept these Rules and submit the nomination.**

A EURid representative will check the Nominee prior to displaying the nomination on webawards.eurid.eu. Once the Nominee has been checked, the nominated website will appear under the chosen category on webawards.eurid.eu, where the public will have the opportunity to cast their votes until the end of the Awards

Term.

The number of votes received per Nominee will not be disclosed on webawards.eurid.eu.

On 4 September 2023, the three (3) Nominees from each category that have received the most votes (the 'Finalists') will be published on www.eurid.eu, www.registry.eu, and webawards.eurid.eu. The Finalists and their respective accredited registrar will be notified of this by email. If EURid is unable to establish contact with a Finalist and their accredited registrar within three (3) weeks of email notification, the Finalist will forfeit their right to an Award.

Subject to Finalists and their accredited registrars accepting these Rules, two representative per Finalist will be invited to the Awards ceremony, to be held on 16 November 2023. EURid will cover the costs of travel (economy class) and accommodation for two representative of each of the three (3) Finalists per category. EURid will take charge of all logistics with regards accommodation and travel to and from the event country. Any and all other costs shall be borne by the Finalists.

The Winners will be those five (5) Finalists (one per category) who receive the most points from the jury. All the winners will be announced during the Awards ceremony on 16 November 2023 held in Brussels, Belgium.

Article 3. The jury and selection criteria

The jury is made up of five (5) appointed jurors who will receive the selection criteria and work independently of EURid. They are honourable representatives of the European business and institutional sectors who will cast their votes to determine the best websites in each category according to the criteria set out below. The jury will appoint a jury chair, who will then coordinate their work.

When casting their votes, the jurors take into consideration the five (5) categories and one (1) special commendation, defined in article 2 and evaluate websites by attributing points based on the following four (4) criteria: content; structure, navigation and functionality; visual design; and accessibility. The maximum score for each criterion is outlined below. A simple majority shall determine results of the vote. In the event of a tie, the chair shall have the casting vote.

Content (maximum 25 points)

Content comprises all the information that is provided on the website itself. Content does not represent text alone but includes accessibility of video, animation, and sound content. High quality content should be both relevant and engaging to the audience it wishes to capture, yet at the same time clear and informative.

Structure, Navigation and Functionality (maximum 25 points)

Structure and navigation refer to the framework of a site, the format and organisation of content, the arrangement of information, and the manner in which a site is reviewed and its content filtered. Sites with good structure and navigation are consistent, intuitive, and transparent. Good navigation ensures a positive experience for the reader, who will find access to the site's content instant and convenient. The site will contain live links, and any new technology used will be operational, efficient, and relevant to the intended audience.

Visual Design (maximum 25 points)

Visual design consists predominantly of the site's appearance. Good visual design is aesthetically pleasing, appropriate, and relevant to both the audience and the message that the site promotes. The design should be powerful enough to remain ingrained in the readers' minds long after they have left the site.

Accessibility (maximum 25 points)

Accessibility refers to the ability to use the site in a variety of settings, including on mobile or other 'small' devices, page layout when printed, and use in constrained networks (including slow speeds). Accessibility

includes an assessment of how well the site serves those with special needs, such as the visually impaired. Multilingual content is also considered a plus.

Websites that contain vulgar, obscene, sexist, racist, threatening, violent, cursing, defamatory, or otherwise inappropriate language, or that at first glance infringe on any third party rights, are excluded from the Awards.

Article 4. Prizes

The five (5) Winners will receive the following:

- Marketing campaign for a budget of € 5 000, organised together with an EURid appointed marketing agency
- A crystal award
- Digital Winners icons.

All finalists will receive the following:

- Accessibility check of 3 pages on their website
- Digital finalist icons

Prizes cannot be paid in cash, nor can they be exchanged or assigned to a third party.

Article 5. Disclaimer

The Winners and their respective websites, as well as their accredited registrars, will be announced during the Awards ceremony on 16 November 2023, and will be published on www.eurid.eu, www.registry.eu, and webawards.eurid.eu. By entering these Awards and accepting these Rules, Winners agree that EURid may publish their names and countries of residence, as well as pictures taken at the Awards ceremony on its websites and in promotional material.

EURid will process personal data received in accordance with its [Privacy Policy](#) and in accordance with applicable data protection regulations. EURid will not use the Winners' data for any other purpose than to administer this .eu Web Awards and publish the Winners on www.eurid.eu, www.registry.eu, and webawards.eurid.eu. Except as otherwise stated in these Rules, EURid will not pass Entrant or Nominee details onto to any third parties. All Entrants have the right to request access to, correction, or removal of their data by contacting EURid at the address mentioned on the first page of the Rules or www.eurid.eu.

EURid does not accept any liability for lost, corrupted, or delayed entries or prizes, regardless of cause, and EURid does not guarantee that the systems used by Entrants to enter the Awards will be available at all times.

EURid will not be liable for any damages or costs that are directly or indirectly related to the Awards, the participation therein, or to its prizes (e.g. if the travel arrangements in relation to the Awards ceremony are delayed or cancelled for any reason).

EURid reserves the right to modify these Rules and publish an updated version on webawards.eurid.eu.