

#OurEUStory Awards Terms & Conditions

What is the #OurEUStory Awards?

The #OurEUStory Awards celebrates the transformational impact that EU-funded projects have on communities and organisations across Ireland.

By submitting an entry, you will have the opportunity to demonstrate how EU-funded projects have benefitted your community while inspiring your peers to take advantage of all the opportunities that EU funding offers.

Who is behind the #OurEUStory Awards?

Access Europe is The Wheel's support and capacity-building programme for Irish civil society organisations to better access and manage EU funding. It is funded by the Department of Foreign Affairs. We created the #OurEUStory Awards to increase awareness of the many opportunities the EU provides its Member States to engage in EU funded projects and to recognise and showcase the impact these projects have made in Ireland.

What do we mean by "impact"?

"Impact" simply means making a positive difference in people's lives. It can be tangible like a much-needed community amenity or service, or something intangible like increased confidence, a sense of community pride or inclusion and general well-being. Impact matters because it is the essence of why civil society exists — why we do what we do.

Key Dates:

- 12 September 2023: Competition announced
- 18 September 2023: Applications open
- 27 October 2023: Applications close (5pm)
- 17 November 2023: Winners selected
- December 2023: Winners announced at Access Europe Showcase

Eligibility Criteria

The competition is open to civil society organisations based in the Republic of Ireland who are or have been a direct beneficiary of an [EU funding programme](#) and have used this funding to deliver a project or activity. By "civil society" we mean:

- charities
- community and voluntary groups
- academic institutions
- public bodies
- social enterprises

- trade unions/professional associations.

All entries must take the form of a video posted to the entrant's X (formerly known as Twitter) and/or Facebook page that is **no longer than 140 seconds** and includes the hashtag #OurEUStory. Please note that if an entrant posts their submission on both X and Facebook, it only constitutes one entry.

In order for an entry to be eligible, it must be submitted using the #OurEUStory application form on www.accesseurope.ie/our-eu-story.

Judging Criteria

All three winning entries (first, second & third place) will win a prize: €1,000 for first place and €500 each for second and third places. Note: prizes are awarded to legal entities, i.e. organisations. An individual cannot win a prize in this competition. This is in line with EU funding criteria in which applicants must be legal entities. **Please note, the Awards judging panel will be assessing the quality of your entry and not the quality of your EU-funded project.**

Judging criteria is as follows:

- 1) EU Dimension:** Does the entry demonstrate the value of the EU dimension of the project, and the opportunities that it being an EU project provided? For example, the value and opportunities could come from partnership with other countries, cross European exchange and learning, or the possibility to reach a wider audience and make a greater impact.
- 2) Impact:** Does the entry communicate the difference that the project made to the people, communities and organizations involved? Entries should focus on impact rather than project plans or processes. It's not about how you delivered your project, it's about why, and the difference that it made.
- 3) Clarity:** Is it clear what this project is about and what it achieved? Could someone with no experience of EU funded programmes understand it? Avoid jargon, excessive text, or superfluous information. It's not about communicating everything about your project, focus on the important points.
- 4) Creativity:** You are encouraged to find interesting or creative ways to tell your EU story! Try to make your video engaging and visually interesting.

Judging

Each application that fulfils the Eligibility Criteria will be reposted on the [Access Europe X \(formerly known as Twitter\) account](#) or shared on [Access Europe's Facebook page](#).

All awards will be presented at the Access Europe Showcase in early December 2023.

The judging will be done by a panel of independent judges using the specific Judging Criteria.

Judges scoring works as follows: each entry will be marked out of 40 by each judge, with 10 points allocated to each of the four abovementioned judging criteria. The total score will determine the three winners.

If a single organisation submits multiple entries, and their entries happen to rank in two or more of the top three places, their highest rated entry will be accepted and other entries will be excluded to avoid a single organisation winning multiple prizes.

Other Terms & Conditions

By submitting this application, you are agreeing to the below terms of the competition.

Obligation to Use Your Application Form

By entering this competition, you are acknowledging and agreeing that The Wheel, Access Europe and its stakeholders are not required to host, display, accept, or consider any entered or submitted application to the #OurEUStory Awards, and you further agree that if The Wheel determines that your entry does not meet eligibility requirements for any reason, The Wheel may, at its sole discretion, remove your submission from the contest at any time.

Agree to Be Bound

By entering, entrants agree to be bound by the decisions of the judges and these official rules and to comply with laws and regulations as well as all rules and terms of use posted on www.accesseurope.ie/our-eu-story.

Further, The Wheel reserves the right to (a) modify the Terms & Conditions / Rules of the campaign at any time during the #OurEUStory Awards and (b) cancel, terminate or modify any transmission or other activity not capable of completion as planned, including by reason of infection by computer virus, bugs, tampering, unauthorized intervention, force majeure or technical failures of any sort.

Not Responsible for Technical Difficulties

The Wheel and those working for or on its behalf will not be responsible for lost, late, misdirected, damaged, submissions or attempted submissions, or for e-mail, internet, computer hardware and software, phone, and/or any other technical errors, malfunctions, and delays that may prevent you from uploading your application into the competition, or interfere with your compliance of the rules of this competition. All responsibilities related to submitting a qualifying entry fall on you, the entrant or potential entrant.

Entry Compliance and Entry Disputes

1. Entry is open to civil society organisations that are legal entities based in the Republic of Ireland.
2. The Wheel will validate all entries and will determine, at its sole discretion, whether each application meets the entry criteria detailed herein for acceptance as an entry into the contest.
3. The Wheel also reserves the unqualified right to investigate the bona fides of any organisation, club or association, or of any private business or individual that are mentioned or featured in an entry. We reserve the right not to accept, or to disqualify an entry, if we are not fully satisfied with the authenticity and validity of the credentials of either the

entrant or any associated entity. You understand that The Wheel is under no obligation to disclose its reasons for not accepting an entry.

4. The opening and closing date and time for entries (in all categories) are as indicated on www.accesseurope.ie/our-eu-story.
5. Any entries received after 5pm (GMT) on 27 October 2023 will be disregarded, and will not appear on the Access Europe or The Wheel's social media accounts.
6. The Wheel will validate all entries and will determine, at its sole discretion, whether each application meets the entry criteria detailed herein for acceptance as an entry into the contest.
7. Final decisions made in relation to this competition will be made by The Wheel, who is also the ultimate arbiter of any dispute.

Promotion/Publicity

By submitting an entry, you grant The Wheel and its partners the right to use information and content provided by you for publicity and institutional promotional purposes to the extent permitted by law. You understand and agree that The Wheel may request more information from you for such purposes, should your application become a winner. The winners agree to participate in such reasonable publicity as may be requested by The Wheel and their partners.

Release from Liability

Entrants agree that The Wheel and related individuals or entities as well as our sponsors shall not be liable for losses or injuries of any kind resulting from acceptance of award, participation in the contest, individual, joint or collective technical malfunctions of the telephone network and/or transmission line, computer on-line system, computer dating mechanism, computer equipment, hardware and/or software, or any delay or distortion of an entry resulting from data transmissions that are garbled, incomplete, misdirected, lost, mutilated, delayed, corrupted, mechanically duplicated, illegible or otherwise not in compliance with these official rules.

Furthermore, you also agree that The Wheel and its partners are not liable in any way for any false claims, inaccuracies or illegal content contained in your video or in associated information links or external websites.

Data Protection

The data, which is provided by entrants when they enter the awards, will be held by The Wheel. Entrants' data will be shared with the judging panel, but it will not be shared with, or sold to, any external parties or commercial entities.

Video and Photos

You consent to any video given as part of the application to be used by The Wheel. If you are posting photos of children under the age of 18, you must ensure that you have written consent from a legal guardian.

Note: Videos have a maximum length of 140 seconds.

Disqualification

Any organisation that attempts to distort or manipulate the results of the competition will be disqualified.

Accuracy of Information Supplied by Entrants

The organisers are not responsible for the accuracy of any of the information supplied by entrants.

The Wheel reserves the right to modify or vary these terms and conditions at any time.

Legal Challenges

These Terms and Conditions will be governed by and construed in accordance with the laws of Ireland and you hereby submit to the exclusive jurisdiction of the Irish Courts. If any provision of this agreement is found to be invalid or unenforceable by a court of law, such invalidity or unenforceability will not affect the remainder of the agreement, which will continue in full force and effect.