



*'Assess Yourself and Learn from the Best – Showcasing and Rewarding European Public Excellence'*

## **PRESS RELEASE**

**The Call for Applications for the European Public Sector Award 2013 is now open until 12 April 2013 (24.00hrs CET)**

During a high-level and well-attended event held in the Robert Schuman Room of the EC Berlaymont Building on 25 January 2013 in Brussels, the European Institute of Public Administration (EIPA) officially launched the European Public Sector Award 2013 (EPSA 2013).

With an audience of approx. 100 stakeholders from European public administrations coming from 25 countries, the launch event was opened with a welcome speech by Maroš Šefčovič (SK), Vice-President of the European Commission, responsible for Inter-Institutional Relations and Administration. During his speech, Mr Šefčovič stressed the importance of such schemes for benchmarking good practices and learning from each other in the difficult period that all public administrations are currently facing. The Vice-President also introduced some of the reforms being carried out within the EC, while underlining that they fully match the EPSA 2013 theme. EIPA's Director-General, Prof. Dr Marga Pröhl (DE), introduced EIPA, the EPSA mission, its set-up and key dates. She was also happy to announce that despite the continuing heavy strain on national budgets, EIPA has once again succeeded in obtaining political and financial support from 13 official partners for this new EPSA edition.

Then the Deputy Mayor of Bilbao, Ms Ibone Bengoetxea (ES), took the floor to present one of the winning projects of the EPSA 2011 edition and explained to the audience the positive effects and the rewarding experience of participating in EPSA.

Mr Alexander Heichlinger, EPSA Manager, and Mr Michael Burnett, EPSA 2013 Theme Leader, explained all details on the call text, the target group, the application period, the EPSA 2013 theme, the evaluation criteria, the evaluation and selection procedure, as well as the good reasons for participation. For a full description of the conditions of participation, please consult the official EPSA website at [www.epsa2013.eu](http://www.epsa2013.eu)

The closing address was delivered by H.E. Mr Rory Montgomery (IE), Permanent Representative of Ireland to the European Union, who touched on some of the reforms carried out in Ireland to come out of the crisis and explained the many challenges entailed by the EU Presidency.

EPSA 2013 brings together the most innovative, efficient and best performers from the European public sector. Ten European countries, together with the European Commission, the City of Maastricht and the Dutch Province of Limburg, are officially supporting EPSA 2013. The award contest is open to all levels of Europe's public administration irrespective of the size or type of administration. Applicants can submit and thus showcase their innovative achievements, in the following overarching theme:

## *“Weathering the Storm: Creative Solutions in a Time of Crisis”*

Applications should be submitted by the following administrative categories: European/National, Regional, and Local. Each one of these categories will be awarded separately.

In order to promote the EPSA 2013 and to attract as many applications as possible, several information days will be organised throughout Europe during the application period.

The call for applications was opened on 25 January 2013 and will run until 12 April (24hrs CET) on the EPSA web portal ([www.epsa2013.eu](http://www.epsa2013.eu)), and all European public organisations are invited to **“Assess Yourself and Learn from the Best – Showcasing and Rewarding European Public Excellence”**.

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### **Note for the editors**

Maastricht (NL), 28 January 2013

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With the support of the City of Maastricht  
and the Dutch Province of Limburg.

