

RESOLUTION ACC/1820/2021, of the 8th of June, announcing the call for the “MEDITERRANEAN SUSTAINABILITY AWARD” for the year 2021 (Ref. BDNS 568909).

The purpose of this Resolution is to approve the call for the “MEDITERRANEAN SUSTAINABILITY AWARD”, also known as the “WeMed award” for the year 2021, as provided for in Resolution ACC/1732/2021, of the 31st of May, which regulates the “MEDITERRANEAN SUSTAINABILITY AWARD”.

In compliance with the “Report justifying the creation of the “MEDITERRANEAN SUSTAINABILITY AWARD” of the SwitchMed project led by the ARC-SCP/RAC”, issued on 30 April 2021 by the Regional Activity Center for Sustainable Consumption and Production (SCP/RAC).

In compliance with Chapter 9 of the consolidated text of the Catalan Public Finance Act, approved by Legislative Decree 3/2002, of 24 December, General Law 38/2003, of 17 November, on subsidies, and Royal Decree 887/2006, of 21 July, approving the rules for the application of said General Law,

I hereby resolve:

—1 Purpose, scope and description of categories

The call for the 2021 MEDITERRANEAN SUSTAINABILITY AWARD is announced in the following categories:

- a) Category A: sustainable business models
Category A includes two sub-categories:
 - A.1. Early stage sustainable business models
 - A.2. Growth stage sustainable business models

- b) Category B: actors in the entrepreneurial ecosystem who directly support the creation and development of sustainable businesses in the Mediterranean.
The call for sub-category B.1 is announced. Public authorities.

For the purposes of this call, the definition of a sustainable business is as follows: *Taking into account the inter-dependence between the environment, society and the economy, a sustainable business provides viable, innovative products and services that create environmental value (by responding to environmental challenges and reducing environmental impacts) and social value (by responding to social needs) by implementing formulae based on eco-innovation, improving the life cycle of the product or service, and eco-design.*

— 2 Requirements for participation

2.1 Depending on the category, individuals and legal entities will be eligible for the awards if they meet the following conditions:

- For Category A “Sustainable business models”:

This category is open to individuals or legal entities that have developed an economically viable business model that incorporates environmental and social values. To enter for the award the entity will need to be legally constituted as a business in one of the eight beneficiary countries in the SwitchMed programme (Algeria, Egypt, Israel, Jordan, Lebanon, Morocco, Palestine and Tunisia) and have a defined business plan with potential environmental and social benefits. It does not need to have been implemented if the business is less than three years old, but it must have been put into practice if the business is over three years old. Candidates may be profit-making entities (small and medium enterprises, groups of self-employed workers, etc.) or non-profit organisations (cooperatives, foundations, etc.) with a maximum of 250 employees.

This category is divided into two sub-categories. For each of the two sub-categories:

A.1. Early stage sustainable business models: Entities that began to market their products or services less than three years ago and can demonstrate a business model with environmental and social benefits.

A.2. Growth stage sustainable business models: Entities that are fully operative, having started their business at least three and not more than ten years ago, with quantifiable environmental and social benefits. This category is also open to entities that have been operating for more than ten years if they decided to change a more traditional business model to a sustainable model that incorporates environmental and social values as well as being financially viable.

Sustainable businesses are eligible if they are going concerns and:

- Are operated by a legally constituted entity in one of the beneficiary countries.
- Are a legal entity in the form of a company or cooperative, or a self-employed individual, with no more than 250 employees or members. Self-employed workers may submit a joint entry.
- Have put a manufactured product or a service on the market, in exchange for a financial consideration.
- Have a viable business model that addresses ecological challenges and social needs.
- For Category A.1: They must be going concerns and have started business no more than three years ago.
- For Category A.2: They must be fully operational and have started business at least three years ago but not more than ten years ago (start date no later than 1 January 2018 and no earlier than 1 January 2011). Entries will also be accepted from businesses more than ten years old if they have changed to a sustainable business model.

The entry requirements must be fulfilled in all cases. Any entry that fails to comply with them will be disallowed.

- For Category B “Actors in the entrepreneurial ecosystem who provide support for the creation and/or development of sustainable businesses”, entries can only be submitted for one sub-category:

B.1. Public authorities. This category will recognise national, sub-national and municipal entities that have, in the five years preceding the publication of the call for the award, wholly or partially implemented policies, plans or legislation that have had a positive influence on businesses working in the green, blue and circular economies, with measurable results.

The requirements for entries in category B1 are as follows:

- Candidates must be a state, sub-state or municipal administrative entity in one of the beneficiary countries with powers to design and/or implement policies, plans or regulations.
- They must have initiated implementation of the policy, plan or regulations entered for the award no earlier than five years ago (after 1 January 2016).

2.2 The same person or legal entity cannot submit more than one entry. Each entry must expressly state which sub-category it is to be judged in; only one of those listed may be specified.

Entries must be presented individually for each person or legal entity participating, according to the sub-category of award in which they are competing.

2.3 Each entry will have a single representative, who will be the person or legal entity submitting it. The representative will receive all notifications regarding the awards, and the diploma and prize money or honorary prize, if the entry should win. On the entry form, representatives may, if they wish, mention other individuals or entities who have taken part in the project.

2.4 Candidates will not be eligible if either of the following applies:

- They submit entries simultaneously for more than one of the categories established, using the same approach or different approaches.
- A member of the jury has been actively involved in the entry.

2.5 Participation in the awards scheme presupposes complete acceptance of the rules and the call for entries.

2.6 Representatives are fully responsible for the entries they submit. Candidates must not infringe third-party intellectual and/or industrial property rights in any way. If any such infringement occurs, the participant will be held responsible.

2.7 Participants may give their consent to appearing in photographs, videos and promotional activities related to the event.

2.8 If the subject of the entry involves the processing of personal data, the participant must comply with the relevant legislation, applying the security measures envisaged in Organic Law 3/2018, of 5 December, on personal data protection and guaranteeing digital rights, in

accordance with Regulation (EU) 2016/679 of the European Parliament and Council, of 27 April 2016, on the protection of natural persons with regard to the processing of personal data and on the free movement of such data and repealing Directive 95/46/EC (General Data Protection Regulation) (OJEU 4/5/2016).

—3 Procedure for submission of entries

3.1 All applications will be processed electronically, using a standardised entry form for each category. The form is available on the Waste Agency of Catalonia website < www.arc.cat/wemedaward > in English, French and Catalan.

Applications made online are considered to have been submitted to the Catalan Waste Agency only once they are registered on the Tràmits GENCAT platform <<http://tramits.gencat.cat>>. If the telematic application has not been able to be signed electronically, the entity must provide documentary proof that has sent the signed documentation by post, and that this shipment has been made within 10 days working from the virtual presentation of the application. The Technical Secretariat of the award can substitute this shipment by making a video call to identify the person representing the applicant entity.

3.2 The application form will generate a Technical Annex that will include an affidavit that will be signed by the legal entity representative, stating that:

- ✓ The entry complies with the requirements for participation;
- ✓ The person signing the entry is authorised to act on behalf of the entity participating;
- ✓ That all information supplied is true;
- ✓ That the entity's premises (and, if applicable, those of the agents affected by the Category B initiatives) may be visited if its entry obtains the highest score in its category. The purpose of the visit will be to verify the details included in the application form. The identity of the winner in each category must be verified by the jury.

Applicants may provide additional documentation that will assist in verification of the information provided on the application form (articles, folder with photos, link to videos, etc.). The number of annexes to the form containing additional information must not exceed 5 (a folder with photos is considered to be 1 annex). If the annex is a report, it must not exceed 30 pages. This documentation will be considered in the second stage of assessment, after the entries to be assessed directly by the jury have been selected.

This technical annex will be attached to the form available on the GENCAT Tràmits platform <<http://tramits.gencat.cat>> together with the following mandatory documentation:

- Tax Identification Document of the applicant entity
- Identification document of the entity representative

- Document certifying the capacity of the representative to act as an agent of the entity (In case of exceeding the maximum document size, only the pages where this representation is accredited must be attached)
- Bank account title certificate

The candidate understands and recognises that any falsehood in the data or information provided and/or a negative verification report will exclude the entry from the process.

In all cases, the Technical Secretariat for the awards reserves the right to request the originals of the documentation submitted in electronic format in order to verify its content.

No changes will be allowed after the closing date for the submission of entries.

If additional information is required, the SCP/RAC will contact the candidate at the e-mail address specified in the application.

—4 Closing date

The closing date for submitting entries is one month from the day following the publication of the call in the Official Journal of the Generalitat de Catalunya.

Applications submitted after the closing date will not be admitted.

—5 Composition and duties of the jury

5.1 The jury will comprise:

- two professionals with experience in eco-design, circular economy solutions and social enterprises;
- a professional with experience in policy frameworks for green and circular economy businesses;
- a representative of the Mediterranean Commission on Sustainable Development (MCSD);
- a representative of a business support organisation, business association or similar body in one of the beneficiary countries;
- a representative of the ARC Circular Economy Department; and
- a representative of the SCP/RAC.

— 6 Assessment criteria

The following assessment criteria will be taken into account:

6.1 For categories A1 and A2:

Assessment criteria fall into 2 groups: Basic criteria, which will carry greater weight in the final assessment and are indispensable, and additional criteria, which are important and must be assessed to appreciate the nature of the sustainable business but will have a smaller relative weight and failure to comply with them will not prevent the candidate winning.

The assessment criteria are detailed in the table with a breakdown of the percentages allocated.

Category of criterion	No. of criterion and description	Maximum score
Basic (indispensable)	Criterion a.1. The business model is profitable, according to its <u>financial results</u> and viability.	25
	Criterion a.2. The business model addresses ecological challenges and reduces <u>environmental</u> impact. Efficient use of resources, energy efficiency and productivity are good examples. Eco-innovation, improving the life cycle of the product or service, and eco-design, among other measures, help to prevent pollution, save resources and contribute to a more sustainable lifestyle among consumers.	40
	Criterion a.3. The sustainable business model addresses <u>social</u> needs, empowers communities and fosters networking.	15
Additional (desirable)	Criterion a.4. The business model has an equitable and inclusive system of work with regard to gender and governance, offers decent working conditions or applies a cooperative business model or fair self-employment services. The business model addresses current socio-economic issues via <u>successful strategies</u> .	10
	Criterion a.5. The business model can be multiplied and is scalable.	10

Assessment of the entry will be based on a review of candidates' answers to two types of question:

- Guiding questions, which will help them to explain, on the application form, how their business model aligns with the criterion proposed.
- A check-list for decisive elements which can be quantified in a score.

Criteria	Form of assessment	Description
a.1	Guiding questions	These questions will request information on the nature and value of the sustainable business model (product or service). The candidate will also need to provide financial data that demonstrate its profitability.
a.2	Check-list	The list of questions will be based on the indicators used to assess the potential of a Switcher ¹ project to reverse the social and environmental impact of economic activity, depending on the sector to which it belongs. Although not exclusively, the productive sectors with sustainable business formulae expected to generate entries are likely to include: food and agriculture, renewable energies and energy efficiency, waste management, building, cleaning products and cosmetics, clothing and

		<p>textiles, electric and electronic equipment, furniture, transport, tourism and communication for sustainability.</p> <p>The assessment will focus on effort made rather than specific indicators, in order to ensure fair competition between services and products in different sectors and to allow for unequal environmental impact.</p> <p>To assess environmental impact, information will be requested regarding measures adopted to deal with greenhouse gas emissions, water consumption, the management and discharge of wastewater, waste production, efficient circular use of resources, etc.</p> <p>Questions will also be asked to determine the degree of environmental innovation provided by the product or service.</p>
a.3	Guiding questions	<p>The questions will help candidates to explain how they contribute to meeting social challenges such as the inclusion of those at risk of social exclusion, better education or the preservation of culture. It will be necessary to know whether part of the profits are reinvested in society and, in general, how the business improves life in the community.</p> <p>Candidates will also be asked about their participation in communication networks and cooperation between businesses, among other matters.</p>
a.4	Guiding questions	<p>The questions will ask about the way in which staff are taken on and their remuneration, to determine whether principles of equity, gender equality, inclusion and non-hierarchical participation in decision-making are applied.</p> <p>Regarding gender equality, consideration will be given to aspects such as salary equality, parity in management and governing bodies, flexibility and working arrangements to favour joint responsibility among male and female employees.</p> <p>Businesses that apply policies of non-discrimination, gender equality, plans to prevent gender-based violence in the workplace, policies for the inclusion of employees who are disabled or at risk of social exclusion will be valued positively.</p>
a.5	Guiding questions	<p>Candidates will be asked a single open question on the potential for exporting the business idea to other Mediterranean locations with comparable social and environmental benefits.</p>

The jury will award an assessment for candidates' answers to the guiding questions according to how the business achieves the objective of the criterion being considered, scoring them as: High-Medium-Low-Unsuitable.

The check-list will be accompanied by a numerical scoring system that will enable the jury to quantify the extent to which the criteria are fulfilled and compare candidates accordingly.

6.2 For category B1:

For this category, all three criteria are considered essential for determining the suitability of the plan, policy or regulations developed by the public body and all three must be valued positively, with at least a Low rating.

The assessment criteria are detailed in the table with a breakdown of the percentages allocated.

Category of criterion	No. of criterion and description	Maximum score
Basic (indispensable)	Criterion b.1 The policy, plan or regulations have influenced the creation, growth or multiplication of sustainable businesses which address ecological challenges and social needs and reduce environmental impacts. The public institution has carried out an appropriate assessment of the success of implementing the scheme.	60
	Criterion b.2 The policy, plan or regulations have been appropriately organised with regard to funding mechanisms or environmental tax incentives.	25
	Criterion b.3 The policy, plan or regulations have been defined via a process of public participation.	15

Scoring will be based on open guiding questions. The jury will award an assessment according to how well the public institution achieves the objectives of the criterion considered with the activities on which the entry is based: High-Medium-Low-Unsuitable).

The assessment will be based on the candidates' answers to the guiding questions, which will help them to explain, on the application form, how their initiative meets the criteria.

Criteria	Form of assessment	Description
b.1	Guiding questions	<p>A description must be provided of the policy, plan or regulations introduced, their overall objective and how they have helped to improve and support sustainable businesses. Details must be provided of the method used to assess the measures implemented and ensure the success of the initiative and the achievement of the results pursued with data obtained from the assessment.</p> <p>In addition to the assessment carried out and the proven results in each case provided by the candidates, this criterion will evaluate elements such as green public procurement, the number and nature</p>

		of the businesses helped and the quality of support given, in terms of reducing environmental impacts and helping to provide solutions for social needs with an emphasis on equity and gender awareness.
b.2	Guiding questions	Candidates must provide a description of how the policy, plan or regulations introduced were funded and a justification of the suitability of the funds allocated. If there are tax incentives, they must be detailed.
b.3	Guiding questions	A description must be provided of the procedure for public participation followed to allow businesses, organisations and the public to contribute to defining the policy, plan or regulations. Among other aspects, consideration will be given to whether sufficient time was allowed for public participation to influence the decision-making process and whether adequate attention was paid to the opinions of women, young people and the elderly.

—7 Procedure for assessment of entries

The jury will evaluate the 10 entries with the highest scores in each category/sub-category. As there are an odd number of jurors (seven), there is no likelihood of a draw in the choice of winners. The members of the jury will be required to sign a confidentiality agreement to ensure that entrants' data are protected.

The SCP/RAC, as technical officers for the awards, will carry out a first assessment of the entries to eliminate those that are incomplete and do not qualify for detailed assessment. The SCP/RAC will then assess the complete entries and present a list of the ten highest-scoring entries in each category to the jury.

When the jury has completed its evaluation, the SCP/RAC will organise visits by the candidates given the best scores by the jury to verify the details included in the application form. If the outcome of this verification is positive, the winners will be confirmed and an awards resolution will be prepared. If the outcome should not be positive, the second best candidate will be interviewed.

As secretary, the SCP/RAC will prepare a technical report so that the Director of the Waste Agency of Catalonia can begin to prepare the award presentation resolution.

—8 Awards

8.1 The Director of the Waste Agency of Catalonia will issue a resolution with details of the award winners. Participants will be informed of the resolution, in accordance with current legislation, and it will be posted on the Electronic Board of the Administration of the the Government of Catalonia.

This resolution concludes the administrative process, in accordance with article 67.1 of the consolidated text of the Waste Regulation Act approved by Legislative decree 1/2009, of 21

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July. An administrative appeal may be filed with the Administrative Appeal Court of Catalonia within two months from the day following receipt of this notification, or an appeal may be lodged with the body issuing the resolution within one month of receipt of said notification, in accordance with the provisions of articles 75 and 77 of Law 26/2010, of 3 August, on the legal regime and procedures of public authorities in Catalonia, and article 123 of the aforementioned Law 39/2015, of 1 October, on common administrative procedures for public authorities.

The duly reasoned resolution must be issued and candidates notified within six months of the publication date of the call for applications. Notwithstanding the requirement to issue a resolution, if said period expires and the candidate has not received express notification of any resolution, it will be understood that the entry has not won the award.

8.2 The 2021 “**MEDITERRANEAN SUSTAINABILITY AWARD**” will be presented at an award ceremony.

—9 Monetary prize

9.1. The monetary prize allocated for the 2021 “**MEDITERRANEAN SUSTAINABILITY AWARD**” is 25,000 euros, and will be charged to budget heading **483.0001**. The monetary prize allocated to this edition of the awards is subject to there being sufficient funds on the date it is awarded.

This amount will be distributed across the categories as follows:

- The monetary prize awarded for category A1 (Early Stage) will be 10,000 euros.
- The monetary prize awarded for category A2 (Growth Stage) will be 15,000 euros.
- An honorary prize will be awarded for category B1 (Public authorities).

Before the final resolution is issued, the amount of the prize may be reduced or cancelled if necessary due to restrictions imposed to comply with the budget stability and financial sustainability requirements stipulated in article 92.2.g.A of the consolidated text of the Catalan Public Finance Act.

9.2 The award will only be presented to the representative who submitted the entry. It is the responsibility of the individuals who make up the candidacy to reach an agreement to distribute the prize and its tax implications.

9.3 Honorary mentions may be granted to projects and initiatives that have not won an award but deserve special consideration.

Within one month from the day after the publication of this resolution in the Official Journal of the Government of Catalonia, an appeal may be lodged with the Minister for Climate Action, Food and Rural Agenda against this Resolution approving the call for applications, which does not put an end to administrative proceedings, in compliance with articles 112, 121, and 122 of

Law 39/2015, of 1 October, on common administrative procedure for public administrations and article 76 of Law 26/2010, of 3 August, on the legal regime and procedures of public administrations in Catalonia.

Barcelona, 8th of June, 2021

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