



2020 .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, .eu 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 related to these Awards shall be submitted exclusively to the competent court in Brussels.

The Nomination and Voting Period runs from 1 April 2020 (12:00:00 PM CEST) up to and including 5 August 2020 (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 and over who is resident in a Member State of the European Union or Liechtenstein, Iceland, Norway, or an EU citizen throughout the Awards Term and has accepted these Rules (hereinafter referred to as 'Entrant') can nominate a .eu, .eu 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 relatives to the second degree). Each single Entrant (identified via email address) can nominate as many different .eu, .eu or .eu websites as they like, but each website can be nominated only once per category. Entrants are not eligible for any prize or award under these Awards, unless they nominate their own .eu, .eu 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 has the intention of acting in a dishonest or fraudulent manner, or in bad faith. Entrants and Nominees may be asked to submit proof of their identity, residence, and 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 under 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 cannot 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, the cancellation of the Awards in the event of force majeure, or for any other reason beyond EURid's control.

Article 2. The Awards' flow

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

- **Insert their own or their preferred .eu, .europa 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 will not be considered;
- **Select one of the Award categories for which you are submitting the entry;**
 - **The LEADERS:** Where the website represents an established national business that is currently in operation and possesses multiple years of industry experience, more than 10 employees, and a stable but growing customer base. These websites should offer extensive services and/or information, and could include larger e-commerce applications;
 - **The RISING STARS:** Where the website represents a start-up company that is in the process of developing and finding its niche in the marketplace, in addition to having no more than 3 years of industry experience and fewer than 10 employees;
 - **The LAURELS:** Where the website represents an institution such as a school, training program, charitable organisation, etc. that promotes ongoing education/pan-European projects;
 - **The HOUSE of .eu:** Where the website or blog represents companies or private persons in the news, media, or entertainment industry such as news portals, advertisement agencies, etc.;
 - **The BETTER WORLD:** Where the website encourages green initiatives and spreads ecological information regarding environmental protection as well as the promotion of green projects and environmentally friendly businesses. This category includes eHealth, Smart Cities, Intelligent Transport solutions, and Smart Agriculture as non-exhaustive examples;
- **Enter your full name and a functioning email address;**
- **Accept these Rules and submit the nomination.**

A EURid representative will contact the Nominee (the company, organisation or individual who is the current holder of the nominated website) prior to displaying the nomination on webawards.eurid.eu. Once the contact has been established, the 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.

Whenever EURid is unable to establish contact with the Nominee within seven (7) working days, via an e-mail or via the phone, the nomination will be disqualified.

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

On 1 September 2020, the three (3) Nominees from each category that have received the most votes ('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 a prize.

Subject to such Finalists and their accredited registrars accepting these Rules, a maximum of two (2) representatives per Finalist will be invited to the Awards ceremony, to be held in Brussels on 18 November 2020, together with one representative of the accredited registrar through whom the domain name is registered. EURid will cover the costs of travel (economy class) and accommodation for maximum two (2) representatives of the three (3) Finalists per category. EURid will take charge of all logistics regarding travel to and accommodation in Brussels. Any and all other costs shall be borne by the Finalists.

The Winners will be those five (5) (one per category) Finalists who receive the most points from the jury. Winners will be announced during the Awards ceremony on 18 November 2020.

Article 3. The jury and selection criteria

The jury is made up of five (5) appointed jurors who 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 establish the best websites in each category according to the criteria set out below. A chair of the jury will be appointed by the jury, who will then coordinate their work.

When casting their votes, the jurors take into consideration the five (5) categories 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. Results of the vote shall be determined by majority. In the event of a tie, the chair shall have the casting vote.

The jury, at its discretion, may suggest one or more 'Special Jury Awards' for nominated sites that have not won in their category but nevertheless demonstrate excellence in web design, innovation, and outstanding application of technology, or are otherwise deserving of recognition.

Content (maximum 25 points)

Content comprises all the information that is provided on the site itself. Content does not represent text alone but includes accessibility of video, animation, and sound. 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 refers 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 finds instant access to the site's content convenient. The site will possess 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 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 site's ability to be used in a variety of settings, including 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 to be 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:

- A custom trophy;
- A customised promotional video arranged and produced by EURid;
- A one-month (minimum) billboard advertising campaign in Brussels Airport (the billboard will be designed according to EURids standards);
- Three different digital Awards icons.

Prizes for 'Special Jury Awards' are at the sole discretion of EURid.

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

Article 5. Disclaimer

The Winners and their respective websites, as well as their accredited registrars, will be announced during the Awards ceremony on 18 November 2020, 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 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 within one (1) notice period. Such notice period shall be validly given by publishing an updated version of these Rules on EURid's website.