DIALOG DER KULTUREN
DIALOGUE OF CULTURES

INTERCULTURAL ACHIEVEMENT AWARD

Federal Ministry
Republic of Austria
European and International Affairs

Submit your application:
We are looking for successful, solution-oriented intercultural and interreligious dialogue projects!

The Intercultural Achievement Award (IAA) is a key project for intercultural dialogue of the Austrian Federal Ministry for European and International Affairs. The award honours successful and innovative projects in the field of intercultural and interreligious dialogue, both in Austria and on a global scale. The award is open to all those who identify and make use of opportunities which positively shape intercultural co-existence. It rewards projects that successfully break new ground in intercultural and interreligious dialogue, that have mastered a specific challenge through intercultural action and/or that promote the dialogue of cultures and religions through their media presence.

What are the requirements? We are looking for both large and small projects implemented by organisations or individuals. The IAA specifically promotes intercultural and interreligious projects in the fields of **Arts/Culture, Youth, Human Rights, Global Citizenship Education, Integration** and **Gender Equality**. The projects need to be either in the process of being implemented or already completed.

Who is eligible to apply? Applications are open to both non-profit organisations (including non-governmental organisations as well as associations, foundations, charitable educational institutions or religious organisations) and commercial organisations. Individuals from civil society can also participate. Applications are not open to governmental, scientific, research and international institutions.

Which prizes are awarded?

- Category **Sustainability**: "Best ongoing project on the cross-cutting topic of environment and intercultural and/or interreligious dialogue"
- Category **Recent Events**: "Best project related to a current event"
- Category **Technology**: "Best application of technology in the context of an intercultural and/or interreligious project"
- Category **Innovation**: "Most innovative intercultural and/or interreligious project"
- Category **Media**: "Best media contribution for intercultural and/or interreligious understanding"
- Category **Religious Freedom**: "Best project in the field of Religious Freedom and peaceful coexistence between religions"

There will only be one winner per category. Information and application forms are available here.

Send your application per e-mail to dialog@bmeia.gv.at
Deadline: 30 April 2025

Awards

The IAA is awarded to the best project in each category:

- Category **Sustainability**: "Best ongoing project on the cross-cutting topic of environment and interculturality"
- Category **Recent Events**: "Best project related to a current event"
- Category **Technology**: "Best application of technology in the context of an intercultural project"
- Category **Innovation**: "Most innovative intercultural project"
- Category **Media**: "Best media contribution for intercultural understanding"
- Category **Religious Freedom**: "Best project in the field of Religious Freedom and peaceful coexistence between religions"
- Special prize **"Integration in Austria"** (applications only possible from projects based and active in Austria)

Specific criteria and questionnaires are defined and prepared for each prize category. The Sustainability category contains higher demanding criteria and can therefore be considered as the main prize. The prize money is meant to promote the continuation of successful projects.

Eligibility criteria

Organisations and/or persons whose projects mainly **focus on intercultural and interreligious dialogue** and contribute to its success are eligible to apply.
Projects that have already met these criteria in the past and continue to meet them may be submitted again.

The specific eligibility criteria per prize category are summarised as follows:

Category **Sustainability**: "Best practice project on the cross-cutting topic of environment and interculturality"

- Projects that are managed and implemented by non-profit organisations (including non-government organisations as well as associations, foundations, charitable educational institutions or religious organisations) and/or commercial organisations. Government, science, research or international institutions are excluded from admission.
- The project offers solution approaches in the cross-sectional topic of environment/ecology and intercultural/interreligious challenges.
- The project's activities must focus on a minimum of one of the following areas: Art/Culture, Youth, Human Rights, Global Citizenship Education, Integration and Gender Equality.
- The organisation must be in operation for at least 2 years.

- The project must be running for at least 1 year already. This criterion not only ensures the viability of the project idea but also allows for the measurement of impact.

Category **Media**: "Best media contribution for intercultural understanding"

- Submitted contributions can encompass all classic media (i. e. print, TV, radio etc.) and social media. Submitted contributions must have verifiably and visibly impacted the public sphere in a positive way.
- The contribution must have verifiably achieved a wide impact for the intercultural dialogue.
- Complete journalistic, media works or dialogue platforms focusing on raising awareness, understanding and peaceful coexistence are also encouraged to apply for the IAA.
- Only contributions published after January 01 January 2022 will be accepted for further consideration. The dialogue platform must have been operative for at least 1 year.
- Submitted contributions must have been published in non-state classic or social media.

Category **Religious Freedom**: "Best project in the field of Religious Freedom and peaceful coexistence between religions"

- The project must positively highlight the importance of Religious Freedom and peaceful coexistence between religions in the public sphere in the context of interreligious and/or intercultural dialogue.
- The contribution must have verifiably achieved a wide impact for the interreligious dialogue.
- The project must promote peaceful coexistence between religions.

In a first step, the Task Force and the Austrian Embassies will check applications against the above criteria. Only applications that fulfil these criteria will be considered eligible.

Selection and Award Presentation

Applications received by April 30, 2025 at the latest will be checked for completeness by the task force.

An independent jury in Vienna consisting of experts in the field of intercultural dialogue will then undertake the final selection. There will be one winner per category.

- Category **Sustainability**: prize money amounting to EUR 10.000,–.
- Category **Recent Events**: prize money amounting to EUR 6.000,–.
- Category **Technology**: prize money amounting to EUR 6.000,-.
- Category **Innovation**: prize money amounting to EUR 6.000,–.

Additional assessment criteria – Category **Sustainability**:

- Does the organisation have the necessary structures and competencies in place to successfully implement and manage the project, both content-wise and financially? (**structure**)
- Are sufficient financial resources available within the organisation in order to ensure the implementation and wrapping-up of the project? (**budget**)
- Does the organisation have relevant experience in the field of intercultural dialogue and exchange? (**experience**)
- Are the principles of respect, equality and diversity visible in the structure of the organisation as well as in the implementation of activities with both partners and the target groups? (**equality**)
- Are regular financial audits or evaluations of the organisation and its projects conducted? (**transparency**)

These criteria represent optional conditions solely for the Sustainability category: "Best ongoing project on the cross-cutting topic of environment and interculturality". They positively influence the quality, and therefore the assessment of applications.

Send your application per e-mail to dialog@bmeia.gv.at.

Deadline: 30 April 2025

Federal Ministry
Republic of Austria
European and International Affairs

INTERCULTURAL ACHIEVEMENT AWARD

APPLICATION
INTERCULTURAL ACHIEVEMENT AWARD 2025

Dear applicant! Please read the call for projects and the eligibility criteria carefully before filling in all of the questions below. We can only consider completely filled in forms. All questions must be answered in English. Kindly note the maximum amount of characters and do not exceed this limit.

Please submit this form no later than **30 April 2025** via e-mail to dialogue@bmeia.gv.at and attach max. two good quality photos illustrating your project's work and/or team. Photos allow us to get a clearer impression of your activity and are a vital part of your application.

When submitting your application, please make sure to indicate "Application – IAA – [Your country of application]" in the subject heading of your e-mail. Our team wishes you the best of luck!

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(1) Applicant Information

Surname:

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Given Name:

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Street and Number:

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Postal Code and City:

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Province/Country:

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Telephone (incl. country code, i. e. +43)

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E-mail:

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Applicant's position within the organisation

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(2) The Organisation (if applicable)

Name of the organisation:

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Type of organisation[1]:

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[1] Non-governmental organisation, association/foundation, charitable/educational institution, religious organisation, or commercial organisation.

Main field of activity:

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Established: (dd/mm/yyyy)

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Location (street, number, city):

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How did you hear about this award?

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No. of employees/volunteers:

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Website (if applicable):

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Other social media (if applicable):

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Name of Managing Director:

.....

(3) The Project

Title/name of project:

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You are engaged in intercultural and/or interreligious dialogue. Which of the IAA's thematic priorities apply to your project? Please specify: Art/Culture – Youth – Human Rights – Global Citizenship Education – Integration – Gender Equality

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Which IAA category are you applying for? Please read the specific eligibility criteria in the call for applications carefully. Multiple answers are possible, however only projects, which meet the respective criteria, can be considered.

- ☐ Sustainability
- ☐ Recent Events
- ☐ Technology
- ☐ Innovation
- ☐ Media
- ☐ Integration in Austria
- ☐ Best Austrian project

Operating since: (dd/mm/yyyy) .....

Total duration of project/project cycle: (in months)

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Describe the project in one sentence: (max. 200 characters)

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Description of project: (max. one page)

Please describe in a concise manner. We can only accept applications that do not exceed the given limit. In your description, kindly answer the following questions or include the following information (obligatory!):

- How does your project promote intercultural and/or interreligious dialogue? What does intercultural dialogue mean to you?
- Please indicate your target group and all supporters, partners and sponsors of the project. Kindly describe the form and duration of the cooperation.
- Why do you consider your project to be innovative?
- In which context does your project operate? Why is it necessary? Which challenges does it respond to? What are the main activities and outcome of the project?
- How would you use the prize money?

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(4) Declaration of consent

I hereby confirm that the information provided in this application is accurate and true.

I hereby confirm that the applying organisation fulfils the local legal requirements and conditions and thus holds the right to operate the project submitted to this competition.

I hereby declare that I am authorised to submit this application on behalf of the respective organisation.

I hereby agree that the information provided in this application may be used by the Austrian Federal Ministry for European and International Affairs; by Austrian representations abroad; as well as by cooperation partners to promote and inform about the project and its participants.

In case of selection for a prize, I consent that information relating to myself, the project and the organisation may be published on the website of the Austrian Federal Ministry European and International Affairs at bmeia.gv.at as well as in other digital and print media outlets, including those of cooperation partners.

My consent to use the information provided by me can be retracted at any time. This will be considered a withdrawal from the contest. Please contact dialogue@bmeia.gv.at for further information.

Information will be used for the above-mentioned activities only. The transfer of information to third parties, other than cooperation partners, will not be undertaken without prior approval from the applicant.

Please make sure that you have filled in all relevant information before signing and submitting your application. Please also note that in case of pre-selection, you might be asked for additional documentation about your project.

Kindly submit your complete application no later than 30 April 2025!
If you experience any technical difficulties, please contact us at dialogue@bmeia.gv.at.

Please indicate the country of origin of the project/organisation of the country that you are applying from:

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Date: (dd/mm/yyyy)

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Signature: (please type in your name)

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- Category **Media**: prize money amounting to EUR 6.000,–.
- Category **Religious Freedom**: prize money amounting to EUR 6.000,–,
- Special prize **"Integration in Austria":** prize money amounting to EUR 6.000,– (applications only possible from projects based and active in Austria).

The award ceremony is scheduled to take place in autumn 2025. The awardees will be invited to attend the ceremony.

Assessment Criteria

In order to ensure a comprehensive assessment of projects based on clearly defined criteria, the following guidelines will be used in the process:

Applications:

A detailed online application form with guiding questions can be found **here**. Questions must be answered in English in a clear and precise manner (clarity), be structured (detail and focus) and should convince the reader of the project purpose and objectives (persuasiveness). All questions must be answered in order to be considered.

Pre-selected applicants will be asked to provide additional information. Depending on the requirements of the respective category this might be a copy of a valid business/operational license, an up-to-date business plan, project report and possibly an evaluation report.

Projects – Categories **Sustainability, Recent Events, Technology, Innovation, Media, Religious Freedom**

- Does the project respond to the needs of the beneficiaries on the ground and is appropriate in the local context of operation? (**relevance, all categories**)
- Is/was the target group clearly defined and accessible for the project activities? (**impact, all categories**)
- Have objectives, activities and results been clearly defined? (**clarity, all categories**)
- Are objectives, activities and results measured and evaluated regularly? (**evaluation, sustainability**)
- Is the project innovative and introduces new concepts and methods, encourages creative thinking, applies solution-oriented approaches, and passes these on to beneficiaries? ***(innovation, methods, creativity)***
- Is the concept of the project applicable to other contexts and therefore able to be implemented by different organisations? (**transferability, sustainability**)
- Did/does the project reach its objectives; is there proof of its impact? (**success, all categories**)

- The project must be running for at least 1 year already. This criterion not only ensures the viability of the project idea but also allows for the measurement of impact.
- The project cycle should be set at a minimum of 2, preferably 5 years.

Category **Recent Events**: "Best project related to a current event"

- Projects that are managed and implemented by non-profit organisations (including non-government organisations as well as associations, foundations, charitable educational institutions or religious organisations), individuals and/or private entities. Government, science, research or international institutions are excluded from admission.
- The project's activities must focus on a minimum of one of the following areas: Art/Culture, Youth, Human Rights, Global Citizenship Education, Integration and Gender Equality.
- The project must have been implemented between 2023 and 2024 and may also consist of a successful single action in the field of intercultural or interreligious dialogue. This prize category is aimed at projects that have reacted to current events or developments and have contributed to intercultural understanding, also on an occasional basis.

Category **Technology**: "Best application of technology in the context of an intercultural project"

- Projects that are managed and implemented by non-profit organisations (including non-government organisations as well as associations, foundations, charitable educational institutions or religious organisations), individuals and/or private entities. Government, science, research or international institutions are excluded from admission.
- The project's activities must focus on a minimum of one of the following areas: Art/Culture, Youth, Human Rights, Global Citizenship Education, Integration and Gender Equality.
- The project must use innovative technological solutions that promote intercultural and/or interreligious dialogue.
- The project must be running for at least 1 year already. This criterion not only ensures the viability of the project idea but also allows for the measurement of impact.

Category **Innovation**: "Most innovative intercultural project"

- Projects that are managed and implemented by non-profit organisations (including non-government organisations as well as associations, foundations, charitable educational institutions or religious organisations), individuals and/or commercial organisations. Government, science, research or international institutions are excluded from admission.
- The project's activities must focus on a minimum of one of the following areas: Art/Culture, Youth, Human Rights, Global Citizenship Education, Integration and Gender Equality. The project should be characterized by an innovative methodical or creative approach within the dialogue of cultures.
- The project must be characterized by an innovative methodological or creative within the scope dialogue of cultures and religions.

Background Information

The Austrian Federal Ministry for European and International Affairs has defined the "Dialogue of Cultures" to be a clear priority in International Policy. Austria builds upon a long tradition in the field of intercultural dialogue that is deeply rooted in a history of diversity and pluralism and that has been strengthened through multi- and bilateral dialogue initiatives.

Since 2007, the Task Force "Dialogue of Cultures" supports partner organisations with the implementation of intercultural and interreligious projects and designs, finances and implements initiatives itself. With these projects, the Task Force takes up priorities set by the Federal Minister for European and International Affairs and the Federal Government.

Intercultural dialogue should be understood both as content and as method. On the one hand, intercultural dialogue serves to better master the challenges of a pluralist society; on the other hand, dialogue needs to be better understood, applied and used for addressing public concerns. The Intercultural Achievement Award (IAA) was launched in 2014 as a key project of the intercultural dialogue. It aims at identifying and awarding innovative and solution-oriented projects in the field of intercultural dialogue both within Austria as well as on a global scale.

Topics

Dialogue is a multifaceted concept. Thematic priorities according to the Austrian strategic focus facilitate compatibility of the submitted projects. Therefore, the intercultural projects applying for the IAA must be active in at least one of the following areas:

- Art/Culture
- Youth
- Human Rights
- Global Citizenship Education
- Integration
- Gender Equality