

INTERCULTURAL ACHIEVEMENT AWARD

Call for Projects 2026

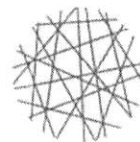
Dialogue changes society

We seek initiatives with impact – bold, innovative, and sustainable.

With the **Intercultural Achievement Award 2026**, the Federal Ministry for European and International Affairs honors outstanding projects that strengthen intercultural and interreligious dialogue in Austria and beyond.

The submission deadline is March 31, 2026.

 Federal Ministry
Republic of Austria
European and International
Affairs



DIALOG
DER *DIALOGUE*
KULTUREN OF
CULTURES

Topics

Your project must cover at least one of the following themes:

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

Information

The Dialogue of Cultures and Religions is a focus of the International Cultural Affairs Section of the Federal Ministry for European and International Affairs (BMEIA). The BMEIA builds on Austria's long tradition of intercultural dialogue which has been shaped over the years by numerous dialogue initiatives and projects.

The Task Force "Dialogue of Cultures" established within the BMEIA supports partner organizations in the development and implementation of intercultural and interreligious projects.

Intercultural dialogue should help to better manage the challenges of a pluralist society. At the same time, the understanding of dialogue as an effective tool for implementing concrete societal concerns should be strengthened.

The Intercultural Achievement Award (IAA), launched in 2014, is a flagship project of innovative ideas in intercultural and interreligious dialogue at both Austrian and international levels.

Awards

The prize money should promote the continuation of excellent projects.

The IAA will be awarded in the following **prize categories**:

1. Special Prize **Integration in Austria** – € 6,000.00
2. **Sustainability**: “Best ongoing project on the environment and interculturality” – € 6,000.00
3. **Recent Events**: “Best project related to a current event” – € 6,000.00
4. **Technology**: “Best use of technology within an intercultural project” – € 6,000.00
5. **Innovation**: “Most innovative intercultural project” – € 6,000.00
6. **Media**: “Best media contribution for intercultural understanding” – € 6,000.00
7. **Freedom of Religion**: “Best project on freedom of religion and peaceful coexistence of different religions” – € 6,000.00
8. Recognition prizes, selectable from all international prize categories, each € 3,000.00.

For each prize category, specific criteria are formulated.

Selection criteria

General prerequisites

- The main focus of your project is intercultural and interreligious dialogue.

For categories 1–5:

- Projects led and implemented by non-profit organizations (including charitable NGOs, associations, foundations, social education institutions, religious organizations) and/or private-sector organizations.
- Government, scientific/research, and international institutions are excluded.
- The project must address at least one of the following areas: arts/culture, youth, human rights, global citizenship education, integration, gender equality.

Selection criteria per prize category

1. Special Prize Integration in Austria:

- The organization must be headquartered and active in Austria.
- The project must address the topic of integration in line with the National Action Plan and at least one of the following areas: arts/culture, youth, human rights, global citizenship education, gender equality.
- The institution must have been active for at least 2 years.
- The project must be operational and planned for a duration of at least 1 year.

2. Sustainability Category: "Best ongoing project on the cross-cutting theme of environment and interculturality"

- The project offers solutions in the cross-cutting area of environment/ecology and intercultural/interreligious challenges.
- The institution must have been active for at least 2 years.
- The project must be operational and planned for a duration of at least 1 year, ensuring feasibility and measurable impact.
- The project should aim for a duration of 2 years, ideally 5 years.

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

- The project must address at least one of the following areas: arts/culture, youth, human rights, global citizenship education, integration, gender equality.
- The project must have been implemented between 2023 and 2025 and can also be a successful single action in intercultural/interreligious dialogue. This category targets projects responding to current events or developments and contributing to intercultural understanding, even on a case-by-case basis.

4. Technology Category: "Best project on the use of technology in an intercultural project"

- The project must employ innovative technical solutions that promote intercultural and/or interreligious dialogue.
- The project must be operational and planned for a duration of at least 1 year, ensuring feasibility and measurable impact.

5. Innovation Category: "Most innovative intercultural project"

- The project must distinguish itself by an innovative methodological or creative approach to dialogue among cultures or religions.
- The project must be operational and planned for a duration of at least 1 year, ensuring feasibility and measurable impact.

6. **Media Category: “Best media contribution for intercultural understanding”**

- Contributions must have been published after 1 January 2022 in non-state traditional media (print, TV, radio) as well as online media (especially social media).
- The project has verifiably had a positive impact on the public and has significantly influenced intercultural and/or interreligious dialogue.
- Complete journalistic media reports or already operational dialogue platforms that promote understanding and peaceful coexistence for at least one year may be submitted.

7. **Religions Freedom Category: “Best project in the field of freedom of religion and peaceful coexistence of different religions”**

- The project must positively promote and convey the importance of freedom of religion and peaceful coexistence of religions in public spaces within the context of intercultural and interreligious dialogue.
- The contribution must verifiably have broad impact on interreligious dialogue.
- The project must promote peaceful coexistence of the religions.

The Task Force and the Austrian Embassies will review the fulfilment of the selection criteria. Applications not meeting the criteria will not be considered in the next stages.

Process

Application

A detailed application form with specific questions has been developed and is available at www.intercultural-achievement.com under Call for Applications. Applications in the main categories must be structured and clearly understandable in English or German. They must be convincing based on the project content. Answering all questions is a prerequisite for further consideration. Applications should be sent

by email to iaa@bmeia.gv.at.

Submission deadline: March 31, 2026

Selection and Award

Applications will be evaluated by an independent jury in Vienna. The winning projects will be selected by April 30, 2026. The jury consists of experts in intercultural dialogue.

Submissions progressing to the pre-selection will undergo a more thorough review. The project leaders must, at this stage, provide supporting documents in line with the respective criteria, such as registration, business plan, annual financial statements, and evaluation reports.

The award ceremony is planned for autumn 2026. The winners will be invited to the ceremony in Vienna.

Evaluation criteria:

- Is/was the intercultural or interreligious project needs-driven and tailored to the local context and the needs of the target group? (**relevance, all categories**)
- Is/was the target group clearly defined and reachable? (**impact, all categories**)
- Were goals, outcomes, and activities clearly defined? (**clarity, all categories**)
- Are the goals, outcomes, and activities regularly measured or evaluated? (**evaluability, sustainability**)
- Is the project innovative, using new methods and concepts, creative thinking, creativity, or solution-oriented approaches? (**innovation, technology, methodology, creativity**)
- Is the concept transferable to other contexts and thereby usable by other organizations? (**transferability, sustainability**)
- Does/Did the project achieve its objective and demonstrate measurable impact? (**success, all categories**)
- Does the institution have the structures and competencies to implement the project financially and substantively? (**structure**)
- Does the institution have sufficient financial resources to carry out and complete the project? (**budget**)
- Can the institution demonstrate experience in intercultural dialogue and project implementation? (**experience**)
- Does the institution pursue the principles of diversity and equality both in organizational structure and in collaboration with the target group and partners? (**equality**)
- Does the institution subject itself to regular financial audits and evaluations? (**transparency**)

For more information about the work and projects of the Task Force "Dialogue of Cultures," visit us at www.intercultural-achievement.com or contact us at iaa@bmeia.gv.at.

Please send your application by email to iaa@bmeia.gv.at

Application deadline: March 31, 2026