



2018 UNITED NATIONS PUBLIC SERVICE AWARDS WINNERS

The Division for Public Institutions and Digital Government (DPIDG) of the UN Department of Economic and Social Affairs (DESA) facilitates the search for innovations in governance and public administration through the UN Public Service Awards (UNPSA) Programme. The purpose of the UNPSA is to promote and reward innovation and excellence in public services in support of the realization of the SDGs and the principle of leave no one behind, which is at the core of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. The UNPSA Programme has grown since its inception.

Key statistics of the 2018 UNPSA are as follows:

- 437 nominations were received for the 2018 cycle, of which 343 met the eligibility criteria.
- 79 countries participated in the 2018 cycle, compared to 62 countries in 2017.
- Category 1 *“Reaching the poorest and most vulnerable through inclusive services and partnerships”* continues to receive the highest number of nominations (194), followed by Category 2 *“Making institutions inclusive and ensuring participation in decision-making”* (111), and Category 3 *“Promoting gender responsive public services to achieve the SDGs”* (38).
- The region with the highest number of nominations is Asia and the Pacific (210), followed by Africa (106), Latin America and the Caribbean (75), Western Europe and Other Groups (32), and Eastern Europe (14).
- 37 nominations were evaluated in the final round of evaluation by the Working Group of the Committee of Experts on Public Administration (CEPA).
- This year, 8 public institutions from 8 countries have been selected as the 2018 UNPSA winners.

Category 1: Reaching the Poorest and Most Vulnerable through Inclusive Services and Partnerships

Asia and the Pacific

Indonesia

Initiative: Reducing Malaria Cases Through Early Diagnosis and Treatment (EDAT)



The high incidence rate of malaria in Bintuni Regency has led to the development of the Early Diagnosis and Treatment System (EDAT) programme aimed at reducing cases of malaria, particularly among vulnerable groups living in remote and hard to access areas. The programme is a collaboration between Local Government, Non-Governmental Organizations and the private sector. The EDAT system, implemented through the establishment of Juru Malaria Kampung or Malaria Specialist (JMK), aims to raise awareness and education amongst the community on malaria identification, prevention and treatment, train villagers as malaria health workers, repackage malaria drugs in a more convenient and user-friendly manner and ensure integrated quality assurance. As of 2017 the EDAT program has succeeded in reducing the malaria prevalence rate from 9.2% to 0.02% in 12 pilot villages. The programme also managed to reduce the malaria morbidity rate from 114.9 per 1000 people (2009) to 5 per 1000 people (2016).

Western Europe and Others Group

Austria

Initiative: Talents for Austria



Over the past number of years many countries in Europe have experienced large inward migration and refugee flows. Having reached safe countries, many migrants and refugees face barriers to integration in their new homes including, linguistically, culturally and professionally. At the same time, demographic decline across Europe has given rise to a shortage of apprentices and skilled workers to fill jobs. In 2015, the city of Trofaiach together with the company Talent Development founded Talents for Austria, a boarding school for 30 Unaccompanied Minor Asylum seekers (UMA) which provides primary care, education (language, culture/values), job training, job placement and ongoing support. The project focuses on enhancing linguistic competences (German), basic education (mathematics, English, social studies, science), and knowledge of customs and culture (values), while providing specialist job training (for tourism, construction, local and regional Small and Medium-sized Enterprises) and job placements. The specialist job training the UMAs receive significantly increases their chances of starting an apprenticeship and entering the job market while Austrian companies can better respond to the shortage of skilled workers and fill vacant apprenticeships. The project is submitted and supported by the Regional Government of Styria.

Category 2: Making institutions inclusive and ensuring participation in decision-making

Asia and the Pacific

Republic of Korea

Initiative: Tax Administration Division

The provincial government of Chungcheongnam-do Province has established an online fiscal information system on its website in order to strengthen the disclosure of its revenues, budget, expenditure and settlement information to the public. The system has seen 15 local governments in the province sign a business agreement by which they disclose their current state of revenues and expenditures including information on all contract methods, contents, and parties. As a result, citizens can check the budget expenditure operations on the website on a daily basis. The system has seen an expansion in fiscal surveillance and transparency while efficiency of fiscal spending has been maximized. The National Finance Law was amended in December 2014, and in November 2015, all local governments were mandated to disclose disclosure daily revenues and expenditures through the Internet.



Latin America and the Caribbean

Colombia

Initiative: Cambia Tu Mente...Construye Paz (Change your mind ... Build Peace)

The Cambia Tu Mente...Construye Paz (change your mind... build peace) initiative aims to establish a dialogue among members of rival gangs in neighbourhoods of Manizales affected by gang violence. The initiative addresses the issue of armed conflict in neighbourhoods by using innovative practices and holistic decision making to drive peace through dialogue and understanding. It does so by seeking to change the mentality of young people who belong to gangs as well as other members in the community, and works to provide them lasting opportunities through support of public and private entities, such as through work and university placements. In 2015, Manizales was designated by the Colombian Cities Network as the city with the best perception of security, throughout the country. This perception is currently the highest of the decade and is in part a result of the initiative, among other actions.



Western Europe and Others Group

Spain

Initiative: Citizen Participation Project

Faced with the challenge of establishing more open, transparent, participatory and inclusive models of governance, the Madrid City Council established the Citizen Participation Project. The project, an online platform housed on the Madrid Government website, aims to enhance citizen participation and discussion by providing a channel through which people can directly and individually raise their ideas and needs and propose public services needed to meet them. The proposals published on the platform have a space for discussion which is open to all citizens to exchange views, discuss their needs and improve them. Since 2015, 362,702 users have registered and participated in more than 5,000 debates, while more than 21,000 proposals have been made and more than 4 million votes generated.



Category 3: Promoting gender responsive public services to achieve the SDGs

Africa

Kenya

Initiative: Promoting Gender responsive public service to achieve the SDGs



The initiative addressed the following challenges: i) Few institutions in the agricultural sector have strategies for mainstreaming gender; ii) Lack of designated gender budgets except for bi-laterally supported programmes; iii) Low gender capacity and awareness and iv) Gender mainstreaming in most institutions is left to gender units while other programme staff are not made to account for gender. The initiative facilitates the integration of gender and social inclusion aspects, especially related to women and youth in agriculture value chain development (VCD) in 47 Counties in Kenya. The nominee facilitated the development of gender policy, gender based violence strategy for the agricultural sector, gender and social inclusion strategy and action plans.

Asia and the Pacific

Thailand

Initiative: Integrated approach of comprehensive cervical cancer control



A major obstacle to cervical cancer treatment is inaccessibility to services. Roi Et Provincial Health Office (PHO) has collaborated with strategic partners, to conduct a demonstration project using visual inspection with acetic acid (VIA) and cryotherapy for cervical cancer control among 4 districts. Women get their results within 1 minute. For abnormal results, cryotherapy can be provided immediately. This method can markedly reduce unnecessarily steps and waiting time, links screening and treatment and reduces loss of follow up rate. This scheme also trains nurses to be providers which can solve staff shortages in rural and remote areas.

Western Europe and Others Group

Switzerland

Initiative: Switzerland Advancing Gender Equal Pay SAGE

Despite progress, Switzerland still has some way to go until men and women are paid equally. In 2015 a new large-scale public-sector initiative “Switzerland Advancing Gender Equal Pay (SAGE)” was launched. SAGE aims at eliminating the Gender Pay Gap (GPG) in the whole labour market, with a special focus on the public sector’s role of “leading by example”. The first pillar of SAGE is the development and promotion of a self-test tool, Logib, allowing companies of 50 employees or more to find out whether their practice complies with the requirement of equal pay.

The second pillar is a charter for equal pay in the public sector which calls for regular checks to ensure the respect of equal pay within the public administration, corporations close to the public administration and in public procurement or subsidies. The Initiative has changed the national discourse on the gender pay gap in Switzerland. There is a real momentum across the public sector and an increasing number of cantons, cities and communities are signing up to the charter and implementing the commitments (Sensitization for legal bases on equal pay; regular evaluation of salaries with the Logib tool; controlling equal pay in procurement and awarding of subsidies and reporting on results to FOGE). There are annual conferences where all the signatories and other stakeholders exchange experiences and best practices.

