

NSC/EC(2017)6
10 March 2017

Regulations of the North-South Prize



Article 1: The Prize

1. The North-South Prize of the Council of Europe is awarded every year preferably to two nominees, one from the North and the other from the South, keeping, when possible, the gender balance.
2. The Prize rewards their commitment to the defence and promotion of human rights, democracy and the rule of law as well as to the development of intercultural dialogue and the reinforcement of the North-South partnership and solidarity, in conformity with the principles and priorities of the Council of Europe.

Article 2: Nature

The Prize is honorific commending the prize-winner's achievements.

Article 3: Eligibility

1. The Prize shall be awarded to grass root activists, personalities and organisations recognised for their commitment to the principles referred to in article 1.2.
2. The Prize is awarded on a personal basis and not posthumously.

Article 4: Nominations

1. A call for nominations is published on the North-South Centre's (NSC) website during the first quarter of each year.
2. The chair of the Executive Committee also sends invitation letters calling for nominations to the Centre's stakeholders and the Member States of the Centre as well as the Council of Europe.
3. Stakeholders and the NSC's partners are encouraged to relay the call for nominations within their communication networks.
4. An Organisation or individual may submit nominations, and in particular, the following institutions and individuals are encouraged to do so:
 - Member States of the North-South Centre;
 - Member States of the Council of Europe;
 - Other North-South Centre stakeholders and partners;
 - Former winners of the North-South Prize;
 - International Organisations.
5. Nominations should be addressed to the North-South Centre Secretariat, in English or French, providing the identification of the nominees, details regarding their achievements and the relevant supporting documents, namely motivation letters.

Article 5: Jury

The Jury is presided by the Chair of the North-South Centre Executive Committee and is made up of members of the Bureau of the North-South Centre and a representative of the North-South Centre's host country, if the country's representative is not a Bureau member.

Article 6: Selection Procedure

1. The nominations received by the Secretariat are submitted to the Jury.
2. For the jury meeting, there shall be a quorum if 2/3 of the jury members are present.
3. Each member of the jury shall identify preferably two nominees, which must include one name from the North and one from the South.
4. All the names identified according to the procedure referred in Article 6.4 will be subject to a vote in which each member of the jury will select one possible nominee from the North and one from the South.

5. A nominee that gets more than 50% of the votes from the members of the jury present, during the procedure referred in Article 6.5, will be selected by the jury as a Prize winner.

6. If no nominee gets more than 50% of the votes during the procedure referred to in Article 6.5, a new vote will take place which will only include the names of those nominees who got the two highest number of votes. The nominee who receives the highest number of votes will be selected as a Prize winner.

7. In case of a tie, the jury will submit the decision to the North-South Centre Executive Committee, which will be informed of the results of the different phases of the jury's selection procedure.

8. Considering the jury's decision, and after any further consultations it may consider necessary the North-South Centre Executive Committee will make the final decision regarding the attribution of the Prize.

9. The calendar regulations are to be followed as outlined hereafter unless otherwise decided by the Executive Committee:

a) 15 September - deadline for the submission of the nominations to the Secretariat

b) Until 31 October - meeting of the Jury and final decision by the Executive Committee.

10. Before the public announcement of the Prize, the winners must confirm their acceptance and availability to be present at the official award ceremony.

Article 7: Award ceremony

1. The Prize is awarded at an official ceremony in Lisbon, during the first half of the following year.

2. The President of the Portuguese Republic, the Speaker of Portuguese Parliament, the Portuguese Government, the Secretary General of the Council of Europe and the President of the Parliamentary Assembly are invited to attend the ceremony.

3. The North-South Centre is responsible for the organisation of the ceremony as well as the public promotion of the Prize and its winners.

Article 8: Entry into force

These regulations shall enter into force as of 10 March 2017.