



ESPO AWARD 2021 ON SOCIAL INTEGRATION OF PORTS

Thirteenth Edition

Role of ports in the recovery of the city and the local community

Terms of Reference

1. Background

The erosion of public support for seaports has been recognised in the last few years as an issue that needs attention from port management. Competition for land use, negative externalities of port operations as well as safety and security concerns have contributed over the last few decades to a negative public image of many ports. This has been reinforced by the fact that ports, in many cases, moved out of sight of citizens. Ports are at best acknowledged as a necessary evil, but more often the general public and policy makers alike ignore the fundamental contributions ports make to the economy and society. The result is that ports often stand alone, without allies, when they run into opposition to their development.

Embracing cohabitation and dialogue with cities and local communities is for many port authorities a difficult learning process since it often seems to be a distraction from the commercial rationale of port operations. Moreover, the distance between ports and cities has in many cases been widened through processes of globalisation.

The economic role of ports can however only be sustained in the longer run if the social role is taken seriously. Port authorities are therefore more and more becoming aware of the need to devise innovative ways to develop cooperative synergies with cities, to improve the quality and accessibility of port areas and to generally promote a positive image to the general public. The European Commission has also recognised the issue and highlights the need to establish a better dialogue between ports and cities as a priority area in the context of both its maritime and ports policies.

2. Objective

The ESPO Award aims to promote innovative projects of European port authorities that improve social integration of ports, especially with the city or wider community in which they are located. In this way, the award wants to stimulate the sustainable development of European ports and their cities.

3. Theme of the 2021 edition

For the 2021 competition the theme is **'Role of ports in the recovery of the city and the local community'**.

The ESPO Award 2021 will go to the port managing body that proves to play a special role in the recovery and prosperity of the city and local community.

Europe's ports have been playing a critical and essential role for society and the economy during the COVID-19 pandemic by remaining open and operational throughout the whole crisis. They have been key in ensuring that goods could continue to reach consumers and industries. They have showed the best of themselves and continue to do so. Europe's ports are playing an equally important role in the recovery of Europe and are crucial to bringing back prosperity for the city and the local community.

The ESPO Award 2021 will go to the port managing body that succeeds best in playing a role in the recovery from the current crisis and in contributing to enhancing the prosperity of the city, local community and region. The winning port will demonstrate to what extent its focus and activities are essential for the recovery of the surrounding city and local community and which successful steps the it is taking to assist in the social, cultural and economic recovery and prosperity of the city, local community and region.

4. Participation and selection criteria

Necessary criteria for participation are:

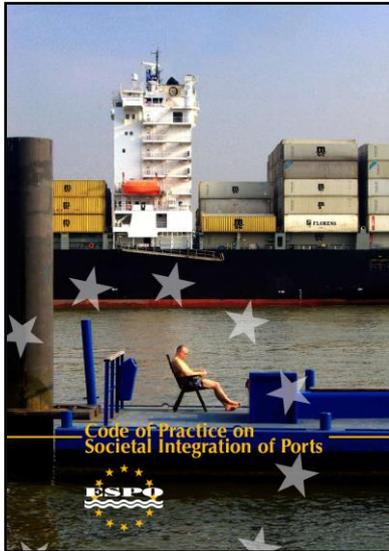
- a) the project must be proposed by one or more port authorities that are directly or indirectly associated with ESPO (i.e. as direct full or observer member of ESPO or as member of a port association or administration which is full or observer member of ESPO) – this does not prevent candidates from developing the project together with city authorities, private operators or local stakeholder organisations
- b) the project must correspond to the theme 'Role of ports in the recovery of the city and the local community'
- c) the project must be at least in the first stages of implementation
- d) there can only be one project submission per port authority / group of port authorities

The winner selection will be based on:

- a) original and innovative character of the project
- b) vision and leadership deployed by the senior management of the port authority
- c) involvement of partners and stakeholders concerned
- d) progress status, feasibility, commitment by investors and timing
- e) assessment of the contribution in practice to the objective of the award
- f) overall presentation and documentation

5. ESPO Code of Practice on Societal Integration of Ports

Applicants may find inspiration in the ESPO Code of Practice on Societal Integration of Ports that was published in 2010. This code brings together practical experience based on the cooperation project 'People around Ports' that ran from 2009 to 2010.



It can be downloaded from the ESPO website:

<http://www.espo.be/media/espopublications/ESPOCodeofPracticeonSocietalIntegrationofPorts2010.pdf>

In addition, the project submissions for the previous editions of the Award were brought together in illustrated booklets. These are also available on the ESPO website:

<http://www.espo.be/our-gallery#texte-2>

6. Jury

The selection will be carried out by an independent jury of experts and specialists on the theme of the Award. The composition of this year's jury will be communicated at a later stage.

The Secretary General of ESPO attends the meetings of the jury in a non-voting capacity to oversee the application of the criteria.

7. Selection procedure

The 2021 call for project proposals was launched on 9 March 2021. Interested candidates are invited to fill out a specific application form that can be downloaded from the ESPO website. The completed form and any supporting documentation need **to reach** the ESPO secretariat by Thursday 1 July 2021 at the latest and should be sent by email to helene.vancompernelle@espo.be and celine.lefort@espo.be. An acknowledgement of the submission will be sent as proof of reception of the application.

For any supporting material deemed relevant for the jury to consider and which cannot be sent by email (such as professional quality photographs or other illustrations, brochures, flyers, reports, etc.) they may be sent by post to the ESPO secretariat. In this case, 8 copies, if possible, of this material should be provided so that they can be distributed to the jury members. Please limit the documentation to what is really relevant to support your application and make sure that **all material is in English**.

After receipt of all applications, the jury Chairman and ESPO Secretary General will prepare a long-list of candidates that meet the participation criteria. At a first stage, the jury will then prepare a shortlist of nominees based on the selection criteria. From these nominees, the jury will then select the Award

winner during the morning of the Award ceremony. During the final selection process, representatives of the nominees may be invited to present their project to the jury in Brussels. The winner of the award will be announced by the jury Chairman during the ESPO Award Ceremony.

8. Description of the award

The award is symbolic (i.e. non-financial).

Since 2016, a painting has been offered to the winner. Exclusively for ESPO, the Dutch port painter Sasja Hagens has developed a new series reflecting the overall scope of the ESPO Award, i.e. how ports and cities are living and working together.

9. Award ceremony

The thirteenth ESPO Award will be officially handed out during a ceremony which will be held in November 2021 in Brussels.



ESPO Award 2020: Algeciras Port Authority wins the ESPO Award – The 2020 Award Ceremony was held in a digital way given the health restrictions related to COVID-19.