



EUROPEAN MICROFINANCE AWARD 2022

Financial Inclusion that Works for Women



Award Guidelines

Organised by:



www.european-microfinance-award.com

EUROPEAN MICROFINANCE AWARD 2022

The European Microfinance Award 2022 highlights organisations working in financial inclusion that aim to understand and meet women’s challenges and aspirations in order to go beyond traditional gender outreach strategies.

There are four components in this topic that applicants should aim to demonstrate:

- **Understanding women’s challenges and aspirations**
The applicant should have a deep understanding of the specific social, cultural, and economic barriers facing women, as well as the aspirations of their women clients, staff, and partners.
- **Responding to women clients**
The applicant should serve women clients through a range of financial and/or non-financial products and services, which are designed and delivered with their specific needs and aspirations in mind.
- **Mainstreaming gender within the institution**
The applicant should have relevant strategies and policies in place that are conducive to women’s equitable participation and engagement within the organisation (including staff, agents and partners).
- **Monitoring**
The applicant should have systems in place to monitor the effectiveness of its gender-focused strategy, covering both its clients and its staff, and which are used to improve its design and implementation.

ELIGIBILITY CRITERIA

- Eligible applicants are organisations working in the financial inclusion sector. This includes many different types of financial services providers (FSPs) that directly provide financial services, as well as non-financial organisations that facilitate access to financial services, via partnerships or other relationships with FSPs.
- Eligible organisations have to be based and operate in a Least Developed Country, Low Income Country, Lower Middle Income Country or an Upper Middle Income Country as defined by the Development Assistance Committee (DAC) for ODA Recipients. A list of Eligible Countries of ODA Recipients as defined by the DAC can be found [here](#).
- Eligible applicants must have been fully operational for at least two years.
- Prior winners of the European Microfinance Award may not submit applications for projects or initiatives that are the same or similar to the one for which they previously won.
- Institutions that won the European Microfinance Award in 2017 or later are not eligible to apply in the 2022 edition.

e-MFP member support

Every applicant invited to apply for Round 2 (please see section ‘Award timeline and process’) must provide written support from an e-MFP member, e.g. a short message or a letter from the member addressed to the e-MFP Secretariat. A list of e-MFP members can be found [here](#).

HOW TO APPLY

Applications must be **submitted online** on the Award website:

<http://www.european-microfinance-award.com/>

The Award is launched in three languages: **English, French, and Spanish**.

EMA 2022 Application Guidance Sessions

There will be three Application Guidance sessions (one in each of the Award languages) in order to go over the EMA process and reply to any questions that applicant organisations may have.

- **English** session: 21st of March, 10am CET. Register [here](#)
- **Spanish** session: 22nd of March, 4pm CET. Register [here](#)
- **French** session: 23rd of March, 2pm CET. Register [here](#)

The session recordings will be posted on the EMA website and e-MFP website.

EMA 2022 Contact

If you have any questions or need any assistance, please don't hesitate to contact us:
emaward@e-mfp.eu

AWARD TIMELINE & PROCESS

AWARD LAUNCH	14th MARCH 2022
Round 1 - Deadline for applications	12th April 2022, 23:59 pm CET
Communication to shortlisted applicants	First half of May
Round 2 - Deadline for applications	End May - early June
Preselection Committee Phase	June – August
Selection Committee Phase	September
Announcement of finalists and semifinalists	Beginning of October
High Jury Phase	November
Winner announcement at Award Ceremony	17th November 2022

Round 1 Application phase

Organisations interested in applying are required to submit the short Round 1 application form outlining the programme they are presenting to the Award and provide their audited financial statements.

Selection for Round 2 will be based on verification of applicant eligibility and initial assessment of the relevance, quality, and effectiveness of the programme presented in Round 1.

Round 2 Application phase

Applicants successfully selected for Round 2 will be invited to complete the Round 2 application form explaining the programme in greater detail, as well as providing supporting documentation.

These applicants will also be required to submit an [e-MFP member support letter](#). For applicants successfully selected for Round 2, but who do not have a relationship with an existing e-MFP member, the e-MFP Secretariat will assist in connecting with a member at that stage.

Preselection Committee Phase

Applicants will be evaluated by the Preselection Committee on the basis of the relevance and effectiveness of the programme presented in addressing the specific goal of the award, their financial performance and the quality, clarity and transparency of the application.

Selection Committee Phase

Preselected applicants will be evaluated by the Selection Committee in order to select 7 to 10 semi-finalists and from among those, the 3 finalists.

High Jury Phase

A High Jury selects the winner from among the 3 finalists.

Winner announcement

The winner is announced at the Award ceremony on 17th November 2022 (format to be determined according to Covid-19 protocols in 2022). The Award ceremony takes place during the [European Microfinance Week](#), 16th – 18th November 2022. In previous years the Award has been presented by HRH The Grand Duchess of Luxembourg and the Luxembourg Minister for Development Cooperation and Humanitarian Affairs.

Winner follow up report

The Award winner will be requested to provide a follow up report by the 31st of January 2024 describing how the Award funds were used.

Important information

During both Rounds, applicants might be contacted and asked to supply additional information on a case-by-case basis if deemed necessary.

All the information provided during the application process will be treated as confidential and only be used for the purposes of the Award.

The Organisers regret that information relating to the on-going evaluation of applications will not be released.

The judges' decision is final and not subject to appeal. Neither the judges nor the organisers will enter into any correspondence relating to the decision.

The three finalists will be invited to attend the Award Ceremony and agree to ensure the presence of a senior management representative of the Applicant organisation at the Award ceremony. If applicable, travel costs will be covered by Award organisers.

AWARD BENEFITS

WINNER

- €100,000 (one hundred thousand Euro)
- Winner's Certificate
- Short video highlighting the winner's programme produced at the organisers' expense¹; it will be featured during the Award Ceremony and available online afterwards
- Two press releases (September and November), circulated worldwide
- Media coverage by the Award organisers' partners as well as by media covering the Ceremony and the European Microfinance Week
- Attendance at the Award Ceremony with travel and lodging covered by the organisers, if applicable
- Two free registrations to the European Microfinance Week, one of the top events of the financial inclusion calendar
- Programme presented for the Award featured in communications and in the Award publication

FINALISTS

- €10,000 (ten thousand Euro)
- Finalist's Certificate
- Short video highlighting the finalist's programme produced at the organisers' expense²; it will be featured during the Award Ceremony and available online afterwards
- One press release (September), circulated worldwide
- Media coverage by the Award organisers' partners as well as by media covering the Ceremony and the European Microfinance Week
- Attendance at the Award Ceremony with travel and lodging covered by the organisers, if applicable
- Two free registrations to the European Microfinance Week, one of the top events of the financial inclusion calendar
- Programme presented for the Award featured in communications and in the Award publication

SEMI-FINALISTS

- Semi-finalist Certificate (electronic version)
- One press release (September), circulated worldwide
- Programme presented for the Award featured in the Award publication

All applicants participating in Round 2 will receive a Certificate of Participation

¹ Note: This short video is produced independently by the Award organisers; applicants agree to have their organisation and programme featured in it.

² Ibid.

ABOUT THE EUROPEAN MICROFINANCE AWARD

The European Microfinance Award is a prestigious annual award with €100,000 for the winner and €10,000 for the runners-up, which attracts applications from organisations active in financial services around the world that are innovating in a particular area of financial inclusion. It serves two parallel goals: rewarding excellence, and collecting and disseminating the most relevant practices for replication by others.

The Award was launched in 2005 by the Luxembourg Ministry of Foreign and European Affairs – Directorate for Development Cooperation and Humanitarian Affairs. It is jointly organised by the Ministry, the European Microfinance Platform (e-MFP), and the Inclusive Finance Network Luxembourg (InFiNe.lu), in cooperation with the European Investment Bank (EIB).

The Award is presented in a ceremony which in the past has been in the presence of Her Royal Highness the Grand-Duchess of Luxembourg and the Luxembourg Minister for Development Cooperation and Humanitarian Affairs. The ceremony takes place during the European Microfinance Week.

Previous editions and winners

2021, Inclusive Finance and Health Care - *Fonkoze* (Haiti), for its *Boutik Santé* initiative to train clients as Community Health Entrepreneurs to conduct basic health screenings, deliver health education sessions, and procure health products.

2020, Encouraging Effective & Inclusive Savings - *Muktinath Bikas Bank* (Nepal), for its adapted solidarity group savings model with doorstep services, including dedicated pension and insurance savings products, alongside extensive financial education.

2019, Strengthening Resilience to Climate Change - *APA Insurance* (Kenya), for its Index Based Livestock Insurance (IBLI) and Area Yield Index Insurance (AYII) for pastoralist and smallholder farmers

2018, Financial Inclusion through Technology - *Advans Côte d'Ivoire* (Ivory Coast), for its digital savings and payment solutions for cocoa farmers and cooperatives, and their small digital school loans for farmers

2017, Microfinance for Housing - *Cooperativa Tosepantomín* (Mexico), for its holistic housing programme serving rural communities and promoting environmental responsibility

2016, Microfinance and Access to Education - *Kashf Foundation* (Pakistan), for its programme to serve low-cost private schools

2015, Microfinance in Post-disaster, Post-conflict Areas & Fragile States - *Crédit Rural de Guinée S.A* (Guinea), for its innovative response to the Ebola outbreak in Guinea

2014, Microfinance and the Environment - *Kompanion* (Kyrgyzstan), for its Pasture Land Management Training Initiative

2012, Microfinance for Food Security - *ASKI* (The Philippines), for serving smallholder farmers and fostering effective market linkages

2010, Value Chain Finance - *Harbu* (Ethiopia), for its initiative financing a soybean value chain

2008, Socially Responsible Microfinance - *Buusaa Gonofaa* (Ethiopia), for the development of its client assessment system

2006, Innovation for Outreach - *The Zakoura Foundation* (Morocco), for its rural tourism programme