**The Nordic-Baltic Rural and Maritime Award 2018**

**The Nordic-Baltic Regions Rural Network Support Units –**

**Denmark, Estonia, Finland, Latvia, Lithuania, Poland and Sweden**

**have initiated The Nordic-Baltic Rural Award**

**The Awards Gala Event will be held in Örnsköldsvik, Sweden May 19:th 2018 during the Swedish Rural Parliament. Without internal ranking three good practices of rural development initiatives, projects or investments will finally be awarded.**

**Nominations for the Nordic-Baltic Rural and Maritime Awards are now open with a large range of applications expected from all participating countries. The completed nomination forms and photos should be sent via e-mail to** [**landsbygdsnatverket@jordbruksverket.se**](mailto:landsbygdsnatverket@jordbruksverket.se) **Deadline for submission is 28th of Feb 2018.**

**There are no specific categories for the award. All investments, actions and projects supported by the European Agricultural Fund for Rural Development (EAFRD) or the European Maritime and Fisheries Fund (EMFF) can be nominated. It can be during the former or the running program period.**

**The aim of the competition is to:**

**Highlight projects and investments that have led to better possibilities to live and thrive in rural or coastal areas, created new companies and jobs, strengthened existing companies and given reinforced hopes for the future.**

**We want to spread the information and lessons learnt so others also can benefit from the new solutions and methods used.**

**The nomination and evaluation process builds a common knowledge for important criteria for successful rural or coastal development.**

**We also want to promote the Baltic Sea Region and our cooperation as a good example for the whole EU.**

**Through this we are also fostering cooperation in our macro region.**

**Any kind of initiative funded through EAFRD or EMFF:**

The nominations can be for any kind of investment, project or initiative with funding from one of the EU-funds during this or the former program period. Since the number of applications and the amount of approved applications are low in the existing program period 2014-2020, we need to include also the program period 2007-2013 as well.

**What to be awarded:**

The nomination should award projects that have had or will have a long lasting effect on a rural or coastal communities or businesses. Extra points will be given if the project includes many different actors and deliver a positive impact both in the social aspect (quality of life, empowerment, inclusion, services), economic aspects (jobs, businesses, revenues, new markets) and ecological aspects (restoring or protecting the biodiversity, more efficient use of natural resources, higher level of circular economy etc). If it is a TNC it will also give extra points.

Additionally there will also be points according to which extent the project can contribute to the goals of the Strategy for the Baltic Sea Region.

**Evaluation and selection:**

Ideally each country can nominate three projects. A jury consisting of the NSU managers or a representative from the NRN coordination body will meet by Skype and communicate through   
e-mails to make a selection. In the end, one project from each country will be selected for the final. These projects will be invited to participate in the award ceremony in Sweden in May at the expense of each NSU budget. The jury will have one final physical meeting in connection with the Nordic Baltic Network meeting the day before the Rural Parliament starts. At this final meeting three winners are selected without any priority between them, all are winners. The three winning projects will be presented and awarded in a ceremony during the gala evening at the Rural Parliament Saturday evening May 19:th 2018.

**Evaluation criteria:**

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| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Criteria | To be regarded | Points | Reference to nomination form |
| 1. Long lasting effect on a rural or coastal communities or businesses. | During project time  Some years after  Permanent lasting | 0 – 10 points       10 – 20 points        20 – 30 points | Point 1 and 6 |
| 1. Including many actors from different sectors | Many actors  Many actors from different sectors | 0 – 10 points        10 – 20 points | Point 2 and 3 |
| 1. Social impact | For the participants of the projects  For others (outside the projects) as well | 0 – 10 points        10 – 20 points | Point 1 and 9 |
| 1. Economic impact | For one business  For several businesses | 0 – 10 points        10 – 20 points | Point 1 and 9 |
| 1. Ecological impact | At one location   In a whole region | 0 – 10 points        10 – 20 points | Point 1 and 9 |
| 1. Is it a transnational cooperation | Between 2 countries  Between several countries | 10 points        10 – 20 points | Point 7 and 2 |
| 1. Does the project clearly contribute to the EUSBSR | No info on contribution  To one specific goal   To several goals | 0 points  10 points        10 – 20 points | Point 10 |
| 1. Are the results, or methods transferable |  | 0 – 20 points | Transferability and sustainability of the results |
| 1. How has the project engaged disadvantaged groups | One specific group  Several disadvantaged groups | 10 points        10 – 20 points | Point 4 |
| 1. What is the level of innovation |  | 0 – 20 points | Point 5 |
| Total sum |  |  |  |

**Nomination procedure:**

The SE NSU has prepared a nomination form for all to use so the description of all the nominated projects will be described more or less in the same way. It is the responsibility of each NSU to arrange the nomination in a functional way. The NSU:s are responsible to translate the descriptions in English. At least five photos showing the action of the project/investment/initiative should be attached to the nomination form. It is important that the photos are showing some action and not only the faces of the project owners and promotors.

All the finally nominated projects will be asked to record about 1 minutes video/slide show (not more) presenting the vital benefits of the project so we can show the three winners´ videos at the gala. All videos and project descriptions will be uploaded on the SE and in all participating NRNs websites.