

Public Administration Awards 2026

Western Balkans &
Eastern Neighbourhood



ReSPA – SIGMA
Western Balkans and Eastern Neighbourhood
Public Administration Awards 2026

Governing for Impact: Creating Transformative Initiatives

APPLICATION GUIDE

To apply for the 2026 Western Balkans and Eastern Neighbourhood Public Administration Awards, you have to submit your application to the Contest Platform:

<https://db.icnm.net/Signup/PAA/2026/>

This manual provides a complete guide to submitting your application.

As an example of the application process, the country “**Albania**” and the initiative “Test Initiative” will be used.

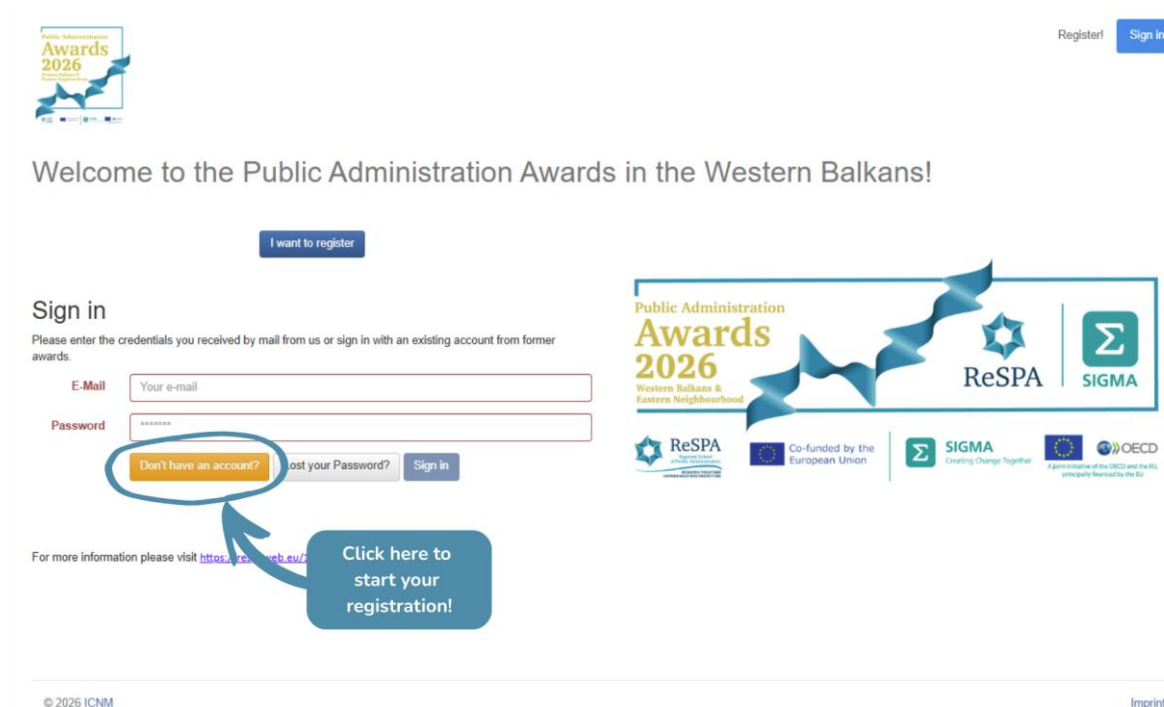
If you have further questions or you experience problems submitting your application, please get in touch with the ReSPA Team, serving as the awards helpdesk: pa-awards@respaweb.eu

Your Step-by-Step Guide to Applying for the Competition:

Go to: <https://db.icnm.net/Signup/PAA/2026/>, and click “I want to register”.

Please enter your email address and select a password.

Then click on the button “Submit and Continue”. You will receive a confirmation mail.



Public Administration Awards 2026

Register Sign in

Welcome to the Public Administration Awards in the Western Balkans!

I want to register

Sign in

Please enter the credentials you received by mail from us or sign in with an existing account from former awards.

E-Mail Your e-mail

Password

Don't have an account? Lost your Password? Sign in

Public Administration Awards 2026 Western Balkans & Eastern Neighbourhood

ReSPA SIGMA

ReSPA Co-funded by the European Union SIGMA Creating Change Together OECD

For more information please visit <https://db.icnm.net/Signup/PAA/2026/> Click here to start your registration!

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1. Register an account



Register! Sign In

Welcome to the Public Administration Awards in the Western Balkans!

Register now!

Please fill in your personal information in order to create a user account. Afterwards you will be able to sign in and register a Solution to submit to the contest.

Email*
The email address is not valid

Password*
Not long enough

Repeat Password*
Fülle dieses Feld aus.

Reset for

Choose your password and provide your email address and click Submit and Continue to register

2. Complete your Profile with your Personal Data

Complete your Profile

Welcome to the Contest Database!
Please confirm/edit your information in order to continue to the next step

Edit your profile
Here you can edit information regarding yourself

Personal Data
First Name* Last Name*

Contact Data
Email*

3. Click on the button “Register new project for this competition”.

Welcome to the Contest Database.

ReSPA - OECD/SIGMA Western Balkans Public Administration Awards 2026
BUILDING A BETTER PUBLIC ADMINISTRATION
Are you leading a truly transformative initiative that prioritizes the needs of citizens (people and businesses) and delivers tangible, positive impact?
Then the Western Balkans Public Administration Awards 2026 is your time to shine.

The core mission of ReSPA and OECD/SIGMA is to enhance sustainable, innovative and inclusive governance initiatives, support improvements and reforms towards sound public governance in the Western Balkans.
To promote and recognise outstanding efforts in public administration, ReSPA and OECD/SIGMA are launching a second round of Public Administration Awards in the Western Balkans.
The focus of the 2026 WBB PA Awards is on recognising initiatives that are impactful and developed together with and for the citizens and businesses of the region. More specifically, the WBB PA Awards 2026 will focus on measurable results, achievements and improvements in relation to public service delivery in the wider context of good governance.

Eligible countries/administrations:
Albania, Armenia, Bosnia and Herzegovina, North Macedonia, Moldova, Montenegro, Serbia, Ukraine and Kosovo*

The call for applications is open till June 30, 2026 (midnight CET)

Please fill out and complete the entire application form. Please upload any documents, presentations, reports, videos or any other additional material that is helpful to understand your initiative and its impact.
Please try to write good text (e.g. simple sentences, define key terms in topic sentence, defend/ substantiate assertion in support sentences) while using a gender-neutral speech and coherency in style. Write to express not to impress, and aim to be concise, clear based on facts written and presented as they are, fully and fairly!
If you use visualisations (where they add value) and/or cross-references please upload them and make reference to it in the respective box.

For more information, visit the webpage: https://www.respa-wb.eu/wbb_public_awards_2024

We are very much looking forward to learning about your initiative!
If you have any questions about the contest, please get in touch with pa.awards@repsa-wb.eu
If you have technical issues with the database, please get in touch with office@repsa-wb.eu

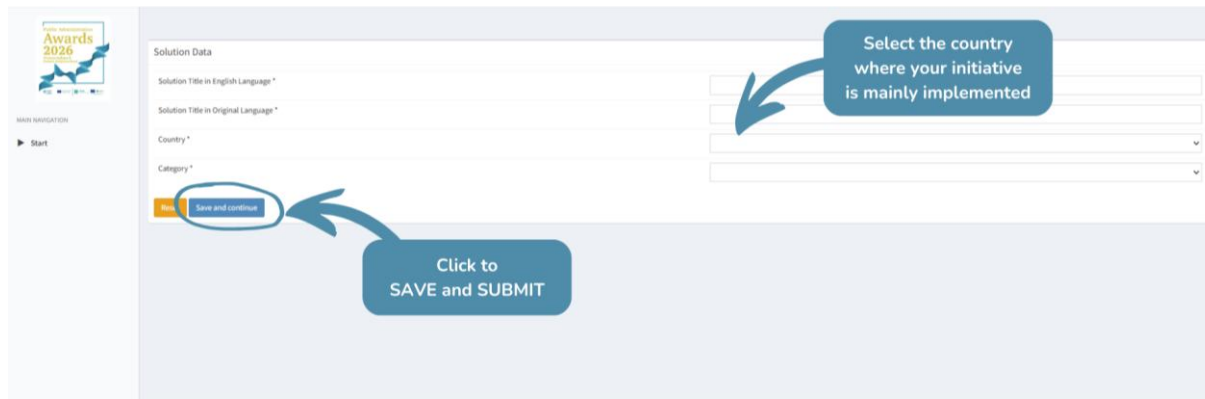
* This designation is without prejudice to positions on status, and is in line with UNSCR 1244 and ICJ Advisory opinion on the Kosovo Declaration of independence.

Open Registrations

PAA 2026

4. Project Data (1/2)

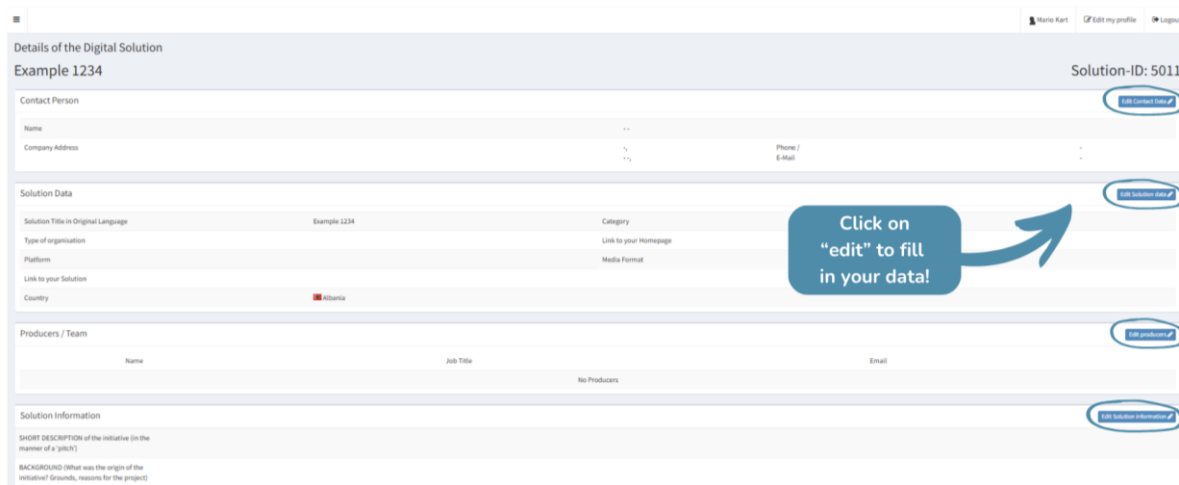
PLEASE NOTE that the title and category you choose on this step CANNOT be modified later in the next steps.



The screenshot shows the 'Solution Data' form with the following fields: 'Solution Title in English Language *', 'Solution Title in Original Language *', 'Country *', and 'Category *'. A blue callout box with an arrow points to the 'Country' dropdown menu, containing the text 'Select the country where your initiative is mainly implemented'. Another blue callout box with an arrow points to the 'Save and continue' button, containing the text 'Click to SAVE and SUBMIT'. The 'Save and continue' button is highlighted with a blue circle.

5. Project Data (2/2)

On this 2/2 step of the project data, you are asked to provide more detailed information on the contact person and the team members.



The screenshot shows the 'Details of the Digital Solution' form for 'Example 1234' with 'Solution-ID: 5011'. The form is divided into several sections: 'Contact Person', 'Solution Data', 'Producers / Team', and 'Solution Information'. Each section has an 'edit' button. A blue callout box with an arrow points to the 'edit' button in the 'Solution Data' section, containing the text 'Click on "edit" to fill in your data!'. The 'Solution Data' section includes fields for 'Solution Title in Original Language', 'Type of organisation', 'Platform', 'Link to your Solution', 'Country', 'Category', 'Link to your Homepage', and 'Media Format'. The 'Producers / Team' section has a table with columns for 'Name', 'Job Title', and 'Email', and a 'No Producers' message. The 'Solution Information' section has a 'SHORT DESCRIPTION' and a 'BACKGROUND' field.

6. Instructions for Application Form Completion (Project Information)

- Please **fill out and complete the entire application form**.
- Please be **precise and to the point**.
- Please **upload any documents, presentations, reports, videos or any other additional material** that is helpful to understand your initiative and its impact.
- Please try to write a **good-quality text** (e.g. concise sentences, define key terms in the topic sentence, defend/ substantiate assertions made) while using gender-neutral language and coherence in style. Write to express, not to impress, and aim to be incisive, clear, based on facts written and presented as they are, fully and fairly!

- If you **use visualisations** (where they add value) and/or cross-references, please upload them and make reference to them in the respective box.
- **Avoid copy-pasting fragments** of text that are not relevant.

Fields to complete in the database

<p>All fields need to be answered, even if not all characteristics are used. L = Length of possible answer in characters without spaces (max. 9400 all inclusive)</p>	
<p>Short description of the initiative (in the manner of a 'pitch')</p>	<p>Please provide an executive summary of the initiative</p> <p>L: 2000</p>
<p>What would you describe as a key feature of your initiative that makes it stand out? Briefly describe what the hallmark of your initiative is that makes it stand out or relevant for public administration reform.</p>	<p>For reference, you can use the key characteristics from the Call for Application and briefly explain why and how your initiative particularly achieves that feature.</p> <p>L: 200</p>
<p>Background (What was the origin of the initiative? Grounds need to be addressed, starting point and/ or baseline for project development, general context in which the initiative is developed, including main driving mechanisms.</p>	<p>Supporting questions: <i>What was the origin of the initiative? What concrete problem did you encounter and address? What existing data showed there was a need for this initiative (public concern)?</i></p> <p>L: 600</p>
<p>Objectives (Which concrete challenge(s) does your initiative aim to solve?)</p>	<p>Supporting: <i>Please try to outline both the general and specific objectives of the initiative.</i></p> <p>L: 600</p>
<p>Results/Impact (How effective is your initiative? What are the tangible results? How do you measure and monitor results?)</p>	<p>Supporting questions: <i>How did the initiative benefit the users? What effectiveness (impact achieved, in terms of numbers of users reached in relation to the target group, evidence that the initiative works, etc) and efficiency (if applicable, economic impact, e.g., reducing the costs) have been achieved? What is the added value for the citizens and public administration? What has changed as a result of the implementation of the initiative?</i></p> <p>L: 900</p>
<p>User-centricity (i.e. How is the initiative designed, developed and implemented based on users' needs?)</p>	<p>Supporting questions: <i>Describe how users were involved in the co-design, co-production/delivery and co-evaluation of the initiative. Describe how the initiative helps bring together different stakeholders. Describe how it took into consideration human-centred aspects in design and delivery.</i></p> <p>L: 900</p>
<p>Target audience / Users (Who did you want to reach out to/support with your initiative? Specific group of beneficiaries, all citizens, part of the population, businesses?)</p>	<p>Supporting questions: <i>How many user groups have you reached out to? Does the project have the potential to scale up/grow its user group? How do you measure user impact/satisfaction, and how does it impact improvements?</i></p> <p>L: 900</p>
<p>Delivery/implementation (i.e. structure, processes, management, HR input, budget, if available, transparency, integrity and accountability elements)</p>	<p>Supporting questions: <i>Describe how the initiative has been delivered/implemented. What was the methodology used? What were the main steps and actions undertaken? What were the barriers and difficulties you had to overcome?</i></p>



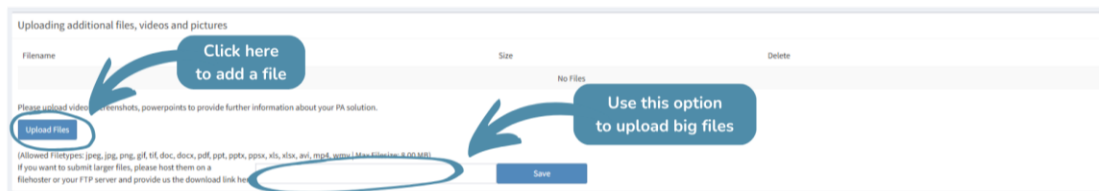
	L: 900
Visibility (i.e. How did you communicate about the solution provided / service offered to those concerned?)	Supporting question: Has it reached a relevant <i>audience</i> ? <i>Has it been sufficiently recognised by those concerned?</i> <i>How did the roll-out happen, and how has it been communicated?</i> L: 600
Most important innovative and forward-looking features (from the applicant's point of view)	Supporting questions: <i>What are the distinct features of your initiative that make it innovative, catalytic, creative and/or transformative? Describe how the initiative has introduced new ways of working, future orientation and forward-looking perspective, innovative ways of thinking or the use of modern technologies in addressing the issues and challenges faced.</i> L: 600
Sustainability (What makes your initiative sustainable? Embedded in future activities, predictable funding, etc.?)	Supporting question: <i>What makes the initiative viable and stable in the event of changed circumstances? Is it based on a sustainable financing model (if applicable)? What risks do you recognise, and how will they be tackled in the future?</i> L: 600
Potential for transferability (Could your initiative be transferred to other organisations in your country or elsewhere?)	Supporting questions: <i>What are the lessons learned, and can these lessons be used for other situations? What were the "pearls of wisdom" to be replicated by others? Is there documented information to share with others?</i> L: 600
Total (max.) characters	L: 7400 (without the executive summary)

You can complete the product information by uploading files (screenshots, presentations, documents, etc.) to visualise the unique value of your initiative.

PLEASE NOTE: The jury will evaluate your initiative online and needs to understand how it works and how it impacts users and processes.

7. Check your application

Double-check your application and that you have completed all the fields with correct data.



PLEASE NOTE you can save and continue later, and then complete or edit your application as many times as you want.

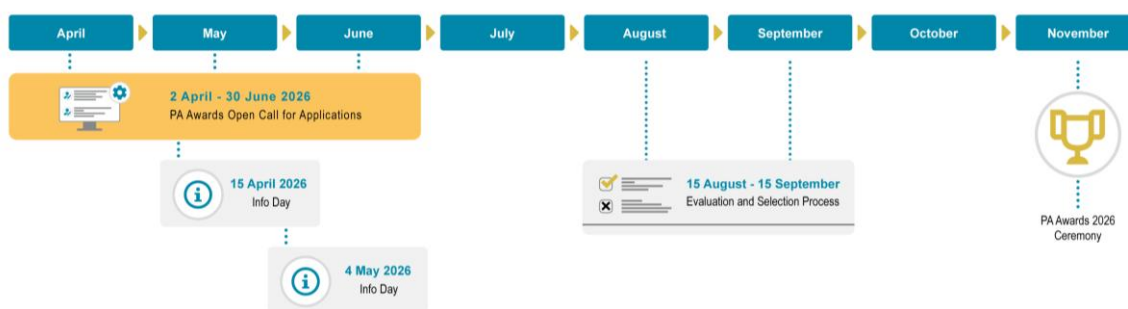
8. Agree to Terms & Conditions and submit your application

Before submitting your application, you have to confirm that you understand and agree with the Terms and Conditions of the competition.



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TIME TABLE PA AWARDS 2026



Deadline for application: 30 June 2026

Contact us

The Public Administration Awards team is happy to talk to you about any questions, feedback or propositions.

If you have any questions related to the rules of the contest, eligibility and other requirements or have any difficulties with the online registration and application tool, please contact the PA Awards Team: pa-awards@respaweb