

Ombudsman announces Award for Good Administration winners

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The European Ombudsman, **Emily O'Reilly**, celebrated the range and quality of the nominations for the Award for Good Administration in a ceremony in Brussels on Thursday.

Launched in October, the Award attracted 90 nominated projects from the main EU institutions as well as many agencies and other bodies.

Prizes were awarded in 7 categories with the overall Award for Good Administration 2017 going to the Commission's DG Health whose nominated unit developed EU collaboration in the sharing of vital information and expertise to help millions of Europeans suffering from rare diseases.

"The EU civil service is sometimes under-appreciated. It is rightly held to account by my office, journalists and others but there should also be room for recognition of a task well done. It is very fitting that this should happen around the significant anniversary of the founding Treaty of Rome," said Ms O'Reilly.

"I have been struck by the quality of the nominations, small and large-scale, across an array of policy areas and sometimes involving several institutions. They showcase the individual and collective efforts to make a positive difference.

"The overall winner exemplifies excellent co-operation at the EU and national level to help citizens, in this case around 30 million people affected by rare diseases in Europe. It is also a clear example of the benefits of the EU when it comes to tackling problems that may affect only a small number of people in individual member states but who benefit collectively from EU collaboration.

"The strength and weight of the EU is needed to foster cross-border research, alliances and scientific cooperation. I am delighted to present the 2017 Award to the team in DG Health for their hard work in this area." said the Ombudsman.

Over half of the nominations concerned the Commission, other nominees included the European Court of Justice, the European Central Bank, the European Data Protection Supervisor; the Committee of the Regions, Europol, and the European Food Safety Agency



amongst others.

The nominations range from innovative ways of involving citizens in policy-making; to drawing up easy-to-access databases; to providing citizen-friendly explanations of EU policies and programmes; to live-streaming expert meetings; and using IT to bring services to the public in a more efficient and open manner

They also vary in size and scope from one person introducing a push for positive change; to different teams working towards a common goal; to nominations involving working with national bodies in all Member States.

For a list of the winners in the different categories, please see below or here ([LINK \[Link\]](#)).

The nominations were reviewed by an independent advisory board and the winners were chosen by the European Ombudsman.

Overall winner 2017

European Commission, DG SANTE (Unit C1) *EU collaboration to help patients with rare diseases*

Excellence through collaboration

European Commission, DGs ENV, CLIMA and Executive Agency for SMEs (EASME) The LIFE programme in Poland *A breath of fresh air*

Excellence in open administration

European Commission, DGs REGIO, AGRI, MARE and EMPL *Open data platform for EU funds*

Excellence in citizen/customer focused services delivery

European Agency for Safety and Health at Work (EU-OSHA), European Union Intellectual Property Office (EUIPO) and Translation Centre for the Bodies of the European Union (CdT) *Managing multi-lingual websites*

Excellence in communications (joint winners)

European Central Bank *Innovative communication at the ECB (website)*

European Commission, DG GROW with support of European GNSS Agency and EU Rome Representation **Movable European Space Exhibition**

Excellence in innovation/transformation

European Network Agency for Network and Information Security (ENISA) **Redefining European cyber cooperation**

Excellence in international cooperation

European Commission – DG ECHO - Emergency Response Coordination Centre *Assisting people in need in Europe and the world*

Special award

Council of the EU – Medical Service *Compassionate care at Council medical service* (including during Brussels 2016 bombings)