

## NOTE

### PETITION ON THE ESTABLISHMENT OF AN “ALTIERO SPINELLI CITIZENS’ CHAIR”

The petition appears to be similar to the initial proposal for a pilot project to be funded under the 2017 budget put forward by MEPs Morgano, Costa and Gardiazabal: the '**PP – Altiero Spinelli Society Modules**'. The proposal sought to emphasise the role of citizens in the EU decision-making process, relying jointly on a Higher Education Institution and a Civil Society Organisation in order to redress "disenchantment" with the EU and to enhance citizens' understanding and ownership of the European project.

The pilot project was ultimately adopted by the Parliament under the title “**Altiero Spinelli Doctoral Scholarships**”. With Commission Decision C(2017) 3847, the Pilot Project subsequently became the "**Altiero Spinelli Prize for Outreach: Spreading Knowledge about Europe**". The project, in the form of a call for proposals, is currently ongoing and intends to encourage, reward and provide European-level recognition and visibility to high-quality contributions for:

- 1) Promoting **knowledge of the EU and critical reflection on the past, present and future** of the EU to non-specialist audiences and to the general public.
- 2) Enhancing **understanding by citizens of the values, objectives and key benefits of the European integration process**, of the accomplishments of the EU, of the cost of non-Europe; as well as of failures, contradictions and dilemmas faced in the process of European integration so far.
- 3) Proposing, testing and assessing **innovative approaches and materials** that European and national policy-makers, practitioners, civil society organisations and institutions in various fields can use to better inform, educate, inspire and empower citizens to develop positive and positively critical European identities and sense of belonging.
- 4) Exposing **anti-EU populist myths on various aspects of the European integration process, including extremist rhetoric based on nationalism, intolerance and misinformation** about the legitimacy, powers and actual work of the EU. Demystifying and setting the record straight by giving an honest and factual account of what really happens.-based

The Prizes will be awarded to the most innovative work achieving the objectives set out above and suitable for outreach to a variety of audiences. The winners are expected to achieve synergies with **existing EU programmes and actions** (e.g. Jean Monnet Activities, EU public communication campaigns, etc.). Also, the winners will be expected to take part in public

events organised by the European Commission to support the European Union's communication campaign.

The Prizes will consist of cash prizes under the form both of "**recognition prizes**" for work completed in the last two years prior to application and of "**incentive prizes**" for work which may still be in progress. They will be assessed against the following criteria: (1) Quality and relevance (maximum 50 points); (2) Added value, existing impact and/or potential for future impact (max 50 points).

As for eligibility, the contest is open to individuals or groups of individuals (natural persons). The individuals (or the group leader) must have at least a Master's Degree and be affiliated with an academic/research institution, organisation, civil society organisation, company or other type of legal entity established and based in an EU Member State. Eligible participants include scholars/researchers, scientists, writers, journalists, artists and all kinds of other actors. Applicants from all EU-relevant fields of study and sectors of work are eligible, most notably the social sciences, the arts and humanities and the fields of media and communication. Cooperation across disciplines/sectors is encouraged.

The online registration form was accessible from **16 August 2017**. Submission of applications from Thursday 17 August to Monday **2 October 2017**. Eligible applications will be evaluated by the independent jury, tentatively in **October 2017**. There will be **six first prizes of 50,000 EUR, six second prizes of 30,000 EUR and ten third prizes of 17,000 EUR**. The amount of the prize will not be linked to any costs incurred by the winners.

**With respect to the 2018 budget, approval of which is still pending, CULT proposed to continue the activities in 2018 with an annual commitment of 750 000 EUR.** Improvements, based on the lessons learnt further to the assessment of the first year of the Pilot Project, i.e. after October 2017, and pending approval of the budget for the continuation of the scheme, may be made for the 2018 Call.