

CALL FOR APPLICATIONS

City Vision Best practice Award 2026

Last updated – 20 November 2025

1. Background

The City Vision “Best practice Award” (hereinafter also the “Award”) is a recognition reserved for public administrations and companies from all over Europe.

It is established by City Vision, a project by Blum, launched in 2020 to strengthen the community of public sector decision-makers, businesses, professionals, researchers and innovators working on the smart transformation of territories.

2. Eligibility

The following entities may respond to this call and submit their projects:

- Municipalities
- Unions of Municipalities
- Municipal consortia/association agreements
- Mountain communities
- Inter-municipal territorial communities
- Regions
- Provinces and metropolitan areas
- Metropolitan cities
- Public health authorities and public hospitals
- Public or publicly controlled Institutes, Agencies, Departments, Counselling Centres and Observatories
- Individual schools or school networks
- Bodies responsible for the management of social and care services
- Universities, Higher Technical Institutes and institutions belonging to Higher Artistic, Musical and Choreutic Education system
- Public-law entities pursuing objectives of general interest
- Companies and start-ups



Applications must be submitted by the entity through its legal representative or a duly authorised delegate, using the application form available at: <https://cityvision.zone/premi/>

3. Eligible projects

Eligible projects must be highly innovative and effective in promoting the smart transformation of territories and improving the quality of life of residents. Projects may focus on a wide range of areas, including:

1. **Urban innovation and sustainable development**

Projects aimed at improving environmental sustainability, urban resilience, sustainable mobility, energy efficiency and the efficient use of resources.

2. **Social and community inclusion**

Initiatives designed to promote social inclusion, community cohesion, accessibility for all citizens, as well as the active participation of residents in urban life.

3. **Digitalisation and innovative technologies**

Projects that use digital and innovative technologies, such as the Internet of Things (IoT), Artificial Intelligence (AI), Augmented Reality (AR) or other solutions to improve public services, administrative efficiency and interaction between citizens and institutions.

4. **Health and well-being**

Initiatives aimed at promoting citizens' health and well-being through access to quality healthcare services, promotion of sport and active lifestyles, and the creation of healthy urban environments.

5. **Education and culture**

Projects that support quality education, vocational training, the promotion of culture, the arts and local heritage, as well as innovation in digital learning and e-learning.

6. **City branding**

Creative communication projects with a significant impact on the territory and its perception, developed by a municipality to enhance its identity and image. The objective is to reward the most effective initiatives in promoting the territorial brand, engaging the community and improving the visibility and attractiveness of the municipality.

7. **Collaborative projects between companies and municipalities, public-private partnerships, innovation partnerships**

Innovative projects that improve the quality of urban life through sustainable



solutions developed via collaboration between the public and private sectors.
Companies of any type, sector and size may apply, from start-ups to large enterprises.

8. **Regional innovation projects**

Innovative projects promoted by a regional administration that foster smart and sustainable development of the territory, improve quality of life, optimise public services and encourage the development of advanced and technological solutions.

Projects must demonstrate a tangible and measurable impact on the territory and the community, as well as the potential to be replicated and scaled in different urban contexts.

Applications are particularly encouraged for projects that promote collaboration between public bodies, businesses, academic institutions, civil society organisations and citizens.

Projects eligible for submission may be at the concept/design stage, partially implemented, or fully implemented within the last two years prior to the year of reference of this call.

4. How to submit a project

Projects may be submitted from **20 November 2025** to **31 July 2026** exclusively via the online application form available on the website www.cityvision.zone.

The application is considered formally submitted only upon receipt of the confirmation email from the organising body. Applications submitted through any other means will **not** be considered for the purposes of this call.

For any questions regarding the application procedure or this call, you may contact **Dr Anna Cominato** from the City Vision team at: anna.cominato@blum.vision

5. Project evaluation and type of awards

By the application deadline, the Director of City Vision will appoint an **independent Selection Committee**, whose decisions are final, tasked with evaluating, selecting and awarding all projects deemed eligible. The Committee is composed of experts with proven competence in the fields covered by the Award.

After the closing date of the call, the Committee will review the submitted projects and select the Award winners.



The Committee may determine the number of recognitions to be granted and may, at its discretion, establish specific project categories and special awards, including in cooperation with specific partners.

Each Award consists of:

- a personalised plaque,
- a digital badge that winners may use;
on their communication channels, both digital and physical;
- visibility through City Vision communication channels
(online magazine, newsletter and social media profiles).

6. Notification to winners and Award ceremony

All winners will be notified by email by **13 September 2026** and must confirm in writing, within 7 days, their acceptance of the Award and, at the same time, indicate the name of the person delegated to collect the Award.

Failure to attend the Award ceremony will result in the cancellation of the Award.

The Award ceremony will take place during the **seventh edition of the Stati generali delle città intelligenti**, scheduled in **Padua on 19 and 20 October 2026**. During the ceremony, the Award will be presented to the legal representative of the winning entity or to a duly authorised delegate.

7. Privacy and intellectual property

Projects and materials submitted remain the exclusive property of the applicants.

City Vision and **Blum Srl** reserve the right to use all information submitted and all materials made available to the Award by the applicants for all activities related to the selection, communication and promotion of the Award, and for initiatives aimed at enhancing the value of the Award and the projects themselves.

Submitting an application and uploading a project and its related materials through the online form implies acceptance of this condition and simultaneously constitutes a release authorising the use of the data, materials and documents for all purposes connected with



the Award, including sharing of materials and data with organisations involved in the implementation of the initiative and publication through institutional media, social networks, news media, etc.

The person submitting the application warrants that they have obtained all necessary authorisations from the rights holders and the individuals concerned.

The **Data Controller** is **Blum Srl**, with registered office in Bolzano, via Max Planck 33, email: **cityvision@blum.vision**, DPO: **privacy@legalest.it**

8. Final provisions

Participation in the Award is free of charge. No fee or compensation is due or payable for participation, or for the use and publication of the materials provided. Participation and the granting of an Award do not give rise to obligations other than those set out in this call for applications.

By submitting an application, participants unconditionally accept these rules.

The organisational secretariat of the Award is managed by Blum Srl. For further information or support relating to participation in the Award, please use the email address: **cityvision@blum.vision**



Information notice pursuant to Article 13 of EU Regulation 2016/679 (GDPR)

Blum Srl collects and processes the personal data of its Users and Clients in compliance with EU Regulation 2016/679 (GDPR).

Data Controller

Blum srl | Tax Code and VAT No. 02837820212 | Address: Via Max Planck 33 - 39100 Bolzano
Email: amministrazione@blum.vision | DPO: privacy@legalest.it

Personal data collected

The personal data processed by the Data Controller are those provided directly by the user through the form dedicated to the initiative and necessary for the participation of the entity.

Purpose of processing and legal basis

The personal data collected will be used for the organisation and promotion of the City Vision "Best practice Award".

Direct marketing and marketing by third parties selected by Blum: processing may take place on the basis of the data subject's consent, where the data subject has requested to receive information and updates from the Data Controller and/or has given consent for their data to be disclosed to third parties, selected by Blum, for the purpose of receiving commercial communications.

Categories of recipients of personal data

Personal data may be disclosed within the limits set out in the call for applications for the Award. Data may be communicated to the following categories of recipients: employees and collaborators of the Data Controller, and appointed professionals who, where necessary, act as external Data Processors.

Data transfer abroad

Personal data will be processed within the European Union. Should it become technically necessary to transfer data outside the EU, processing will always take place in compliance with Chapter V of the GDPR.



Retention period

Data will be retained for the entire duration of the requested service, without prejudice to different legal obligations and any retention necessary for the protection of legal claims.

Rights of the data subject

The data subject has the right to request from the Data Controller: access to their personal data, rectification or erasure of such data, restriction of processing, to object to processing, as well as the right to: data portability, withdraw consent at any time, lodge a complaint with a supervisory authority.