

## Municipality award

In order to support the important role of new technology in our modern societies, Ardent Group has launched an award for local authorities in the Liège region to implement digital projects.

Municipal institutions undoubtedly occupy an essential place in our future. With multiples skills and local roots, they truly impact each of us. At the same time, digital technology has completely transformed our society and can improve and modernize the functioning of our municipalities.

So, what could be more natural for Ardent Group, a major player in technology in Wallonia and beyond, than to support this digitalization? Thanks to this award, a municipality will receive an exceptional grant of €25,000 to make a digital project a reality.

Dear local authorities, ladies and gentlemen,

It is with great pleasure that we present the regulation for the call for projects for the Municipality Award, where you will find all the conditions of participation as well as the eligibility criteria to submit an application.

The registration platform will be accessible from 2 May 2022 until 3 July 2022 via the page [www.ardent-group.com/en/prix-ardent](http://www.ardent-group.com/en/prix-ardent)

Don't forget to follow our Facebook page ([www.facebook.com/PrixArdent](https://www.facebook.com/PrixArdent)) to find all our news and stay up to date with the latest information.

Good luck everyone!

## ARDENT AWARDS - 6<sup>th</sup> EDITION - MUNICIPALITY REGULATION

### 1. ELIGIBILITY CONDITIONS FOR MUNICIPALITIES

#### Who can take part?

- ✦ All the cities and municipalities in the Liège Province.
- ✦ For the benefit of citizens living in the Liège Province.
- ✦ Who have skills relevant to the communal/collective interest, whatever the skills and missions: childhood, youth, sport, social cohesion, employment, business, etc.
- ✦ A municipality can submit various applications with different projects which must be carried out by Deputy Burgomasters with different responsibilities.

### 2. ELIGIBILITY CONDITIONS FOR PROJECTS

#### 2.1 - Which projects?

- ✦ All projects and actions linked to digitalization and digital technology.
- ✦ Projects improving local public management and responding to the collective needs of the inhabitants and communal interests.
- ✦ Projects with a place of action at the local level and in the Province of Liège.
- ✦ Projects in line with regional and supervisory policies and with a positive, concrete, realistic and targeted purpose.
- ✦ Projects benefitting unstable and socially/economically disadvantaged people is not an obligatory criteria. However, the call for municipality projects will be sensitive to projects that address, on a human level, inequalities, inclusion, social relations, sustainable development, the environment, job creation, well-being of all, synergy of forces and everyone

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### 2.2 - What do we mean by digital and digitalization?

- ✦ Through Information and Communications Technology (ICT), the use of any type of digital technology available improves performances and contributes to the transmission of information and the well-being of services or people.
- ✦ At this time, digital has become the favored way of communication via various distribution channels and various innovative technologies, notably within the framework of an organizational or personal development strategy. Digital technology is of course the technical process serving digitalization.

### 2.3 - Evaluation and selection criteria for projects

- ✦ The projects must provide help using digital technology and have an added value for the inhabitants and the municipality.
- ✦ The projects must be coherent, promise results and relevance, and create the most sustainable impact in the long term.
- ✦ The projects can be new or already in the process of being implemented for the municipality.
- ✦ The evaluation and selection criteria for the jury will include :
  - A project responding to the collective needs of the inhabitants and communal interests ;
  - A project advancing actions and efficiency for everyone ;
  - A project that improves the daily life of municipalities and/or inhabitants ;
  - The coherence between the means invested and the expected objectives of the project ;
  - The necessity ;
  - General benefits and added value ;
  - Realism as a whole ;
  - Feasibility and reliability ;
  - Sustainability ;
  - The specificity.





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### 3. INELIGIBILITY AND EXCLUSION FACTORS

#### 3.1 - In relation to municipalities

- ✂ Any organization that is not a municipality, it being understood that a municipality can submit a file in collaboration with a CPAS, a nursery, a school, a hospital or a non-profit organization.
- ✂ Municipalities whose application is incomplete or filled with a lack of thoroughness and seriousness.
- ✂ Municipalities that have submitted their application after the deadline.  
The date it is sent on the platform is final.

#### 3.2 - In relation to projects

- ✂ Projects that do not respect the agreements with the supervisory authorities, the Federal State, the communities, the Regions and the Provinces.
- ✂ Projects that are not related or linked to digital technology.
- ✂ Projects considered “unfeasible” according to their planning, budgeting, organization, etc.
- ✂ Projects for commercial, cultural, political and religious purposes.
- ✂ Winning municipalities that have already won an Ardent Award can submit a new application from the 4<sup>th</sup> year following their nomination.
- ✂ Municipalities that have been nominated but have not won can submit a new project the following year.

### 4. GENERAL PROVISIONS

- ✂ The application must be written in French, be argued with seriousness, clarity, maturity, professionalism and completeness.
- ✂ The same project can integrate several financial needs. A quote or explanatory proof of future expenses is requested so the project can be correctly understood.
- ✂ The employment of someone can be financed in relation to digitalization and digital technology. The operating costs must be related to the digital project, excluding the usual costs of the municipality.



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- ✦ Only projects justifying the need for a minimum budget of €25,000 will be accepted.
- ✦ If the total budget of the project is more than €25,000, the municipality will have to finance the difference with its own funds and/or through other financial partners.
- ✦ Any amount that appears on one of the budget lines in the table for this purpose must be justified by an appendix of the same amount proving future expenditure.
- ✦ The project must be implemented and completed within a maximum period of three years from the date of signature of the agreement. The winner will receive an agreement to sign giving access to the funds awarded after the award ceremony.
- ✦ The criteria are checked several times during the project selection procedure. The external expert may request additional information. Applications that do not meet the required criteria are withdrawn from the selection without delay and without justification. Projects must be submitted no later than 3 July 2022 at 23:59.
- ✦ Depending on the needs, the winner and the nominees will allocate half a day to the creation of a video presenting their project. This video will be presented to the public during the Ardent Awards ceremony and will be broadcast on social networks. A video of the developments will also be made in the following years.
- ✦ The act of submitting an application implies the irrevocable acceptance of these rules by the municipality.
- ✦ The information obtained as part of the execution of the application is used for the sole purpose requested. Any data processing that Ardent Awards obtain under these provisions is subject to the legal provisions regarding the protection of privacy in the context of the processing of personal data.
- ✦ The municipality accepts the dissemination of information about the project to the public and the transmission of the application to a professional jury.
- ✦ The Ardent Awards undertake to comply with the European Regulation on the protection of personal data, in the context of the execution of the contract, in the event that it is required to deal with personal details (Regulation EU 2016/679 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 27 April 2016).
- ✦ Any dispute relating to the application of this regulation and the call for the project launched by Ardent Group will be subject to Belgian law and settled by the Courts of the judicial district of Liège.

