

London April 8, 2020

## **Emerging Europe continues with Awards 2020 programme, but cancels ceremony amid Covid-19 pandemic**

The Emerging Europe 2020 Awards have attracted over 1,150 applications and nomination, submitted by individuals, businesses, public organisations and NGOs from 23 countries across Central and Southeastern Europe and the Caucasus. That's an increase of 21 per cent compared to 2020.

"The fact that the number of submissions for the Innovation Initiative of the Year category is the highest for the second year in a row proves that the emerging Europe region wants to innovate and has already implemented a large number of projects that organisations are proud of," says Andrew Wrobel, founding partner of Emerging Europe.

"We have also seen a significant increase in submissions from start-ups and local companies expanding globally."

This year's programme includes 18 awards categories in total, of which 13 are chosen by a jury, two are chosen by the Emerging Europe Council, one by the Emerging Europe team and two are chosen as the result of Emerging Europe's research.

The 65 final nominees in the 13 categories chosen by jury will be announced by the end of April 2020. The jury will then vote online in early June. All winners will be announced on the Emerging Europe site at 1700 BST on June 25.

Before that, on April 30, Emerging Europe will announce the laureate in the Public Figure of the Year category, chosen by Emerging Europe, and on May 31 the laureates of the Princess Marina Sturdza and Professor Günter Verheugen Awards, selected by the Emerging Europe Council.

Originally scheduled to take place on June 25 at the European Parliament in Brussels, the awards ceremony will now not take place this year.

"We have been watching the novel coronavirus situation very closely for the past few months. We want to comply with travel restrictions as well as curbs on public gatherings and social interactions to try to contain the coronavirus outbreak as soon as possible. The health and well-being of all nominees and attendees is of a highest priority for us. We now want to start preparations for an even bigger celebration of the best of emerging Europe in 2021," Mr Wrobel adds.