



TUSCANY REGION

Call for submissions for the 2010 “Montaione Prizes” to be awarded during the 2010 Edition of “Montaione Days – Democracy and Participation”

Tuscany was the first regional administration in Italy, in December 2007, to approve a law directed at fostering citizen participation in public choices and encouraging the diffusion of new participative methodologies. This law found fertile ground in Tuscany’s civil fabric and in the widespread and significant examples developed over recent years.

Precisely to give continuity to this experience, Tuscany Region has decided to organize an annual meeting as a place for reflecting on and analysing the subjects of democracy and participation: not a traditional study convention, but a carefully constructed event lasting three days, with the characteristics of an international critical review, in which general themes are debated, but where the major “cases” of the past year are examined in depth, there are workshops on interesting areas, methodologies and actual cases, seminars and debates on specific subjects and also best practice awards.

The choice was made to hold this three-day meeting (scheduled in November) in the same place every year, in the town of Montaione – a small town on the border between the provinces of Florence and Siena, and which was at the centre of one of the most significant and most successful participatory processes, concerning the local community’s strategy for landscape preservation and sustainable development of the area around the ancient Medieval village of Castelfalfi.

The “premio Montaione” (Montaione prize) has been set up within the framework of the ‘Montaione Days’, to bestow recognition on the best examples of, the best projects on and the best research into citizen participation.

The scientific committee charged with evaluating the submissions is made up of the professors: Umberto Allegretti, Loic Blondiaux, Luigi Bobbio, Quim Brugué, Rodolfo Lewanski, Massimo Morisi, Yves Sintomer and Stefano Zamagni.

Deadline for submissions: 31 July 2010

Announcement of the results to the parties concerned: 30 September 2010

The winners of the three prizes will be invited to the second edition of the “Montaione Days on Democracy and Participation” (November 2010). Those who submit their candidature for a prize must commit to being present at the convention should they win an award.

1. Prize for a participatory process

This prize is awarded to participatory processes which have already been actually implemented, either in Italy or abroad.

Particular attention will be given to processes which stand out for:

1. the collective importance of the issue they dealt with;
2. their proven success in getting large sectors of the citizenry involved, and in bringing together citizens with different or contrasting positions or interests;
3. for the methodologies used to engage citizens, encourage frank discussions and bring into effect the results agreed in the course of the process;
4. for the ability shown in improving the quality of choices made by public administrations and in producing effective outcomes;
5. for the possibility of developing this experience into stable and generally applicable practice for local administration and governance;
6. for their capacity to increase the knowledge on participatory approaches.

Candidates shall supply a file of not more than two pages on the project, and which shall include the six points listed above, among other things.

On the basis of the files submitted, the Scientific Committee will select which candidates will be invited to present more detailed documentation on their project

2. Prize for research

This prize is awarded to young Italian or foreign researchers (under 36 years old) for a paper – published or unpublished – 20-40 pages long, focusing on the empirical study of participatory processes. The papers may be written in Italian, French, Spanish, Portuguese or English. The papers will be examined by the Scientific Committee. The winner will receive a prize of €2,000 gross, before any compulsory taxation, in addition to the invitation to Montaione.

3. Prize for a participatory process in Tuscany

The prize for the best participatory process carried out in Tuscany will be awarded by a citizens’ jury randomly drawn among citizens resident in Tuscany. The criteria for choosing the processes will be decided by the jury itself. Merely for information and as an example, the criteria adopted by the citizens’ jury for the 2009 Premio Montaione were the following:

1. inclusiveness – quality of participation

2. impact of the process on the collectivity (in terms of level, significance of the participation and improvement of relations between administration and citizens)
3. originality and creativity of the method used and the solutions found
4. quality and clarity of the objectives of the participatory process.

The Tuscan projects which competed for the 2009 Montaione Prize can resubmit their candidacy for the 2010 edition on condition that, in the course of the second year, the implementation of the actions deriving from the process has reached new and significant achievements.

Requests to compete for the various prizes must be made by post to the following address

Regione Toscana

Settore “Ufficio ed osservatorio elettorale regionale. Partecipazione”

Piazza dell’Unità Italiana, 1

50123 Firenze

Or by e-mail to the address

forumpartecipazione@regione.toscana.it