



AIVP PRIZE

Antoine Rufenacht

EDITION 2026

Technical document

What is the AIVP Prize Antoine Rufenacht?

Since 1988, the International Association Cities & Ports (AIVP) has worked to improve port city dialogue and to promote cooperation between local and regional authorities, port authorities, citizens, and economic stakeholders.

The world's port cities, whether coastal or inland, have always been witnesses of major macroeconomic changes and local development strategies. The development of port and urban activities is a major challenge in an increasingly uncertain environment, political and social contexts. Port cities of all sizes and types have to reinvent themselves systemically, as they are at the forefront of major global and societal changes. In this context, the spatial relationship between the port and city, two distinct entities, at once antagonist and interdependent, constitutes an extraordinarily rich breeding ground from which remarkable urban projects have emerged. Indeed, port cities together with port authorities on the five continents, have re-examined the port-city relationship through the prism of unique urban developments and emblematic architectural works.

The AIVP Prize Antoine Rufenacht aims to celebrate these outstanding port city projects and the way they address the port city relationships in the context of sustainable development. In addition to that, the Prize also honors the founding chairman of AIVP, Antoine Rufenacht, and his vision of what a port city should be.

Antoine Rufenacht, Mayor of Le Havre (France) from 1995 to 2010, was quick to recognize the interlinkages between a city's influence and the port's appeal and saw that it is mutually beneficial to transcend the boundaries that separate the city and the port. His understanding of globalization and the role of port cities in the world, his ability to listen, his open-mindedness, and his ambition for Le Havre, have guided all of his actions and have had a long-term impact on the image and identity of both his city and the AIVP.

In the spirit of exchange and collaboration that has defined the AIVP since its creation, the AIVP Prize Antoine Rufenacht allows port cities all over the world to highlight their development projects and to be recognized as a reference in designing sustainable port cities.

Call conditions

1. ENTITY RESPONSIBLE FOR MANAGING THE AIVP PRIZE ANTOINE RUFENACHT

The International Association Cities & Ports (AIVP) is an NGO whose mission is to improve the port-city relationship by establishing and developing dialogue and cooperation between local authorities, port authorities, citizens, and economic players. The AIVP has been doing so for over 35 years. Today, almost 200 port cities of the world are members of the AIVP, with the ambition of making port city dialogue the basis of their urban, port, and economic development projects.

2. AREAS OF RECOGNITION

The AIVP Prize Antoine Rufenacht recognizes outstanding development projects of port cities that contribute to improving port city relationships. In particular, the Prize seeks nominations that demonstrate:

- The added value of the project for the port city community.
- Its contribution to the global development strategy of the port city.
- Efforts led by port cities to adopt a sustainable approach to development.

3. ELIGIBILITY CRITERIA

The AIVP Prize Antoine Rufenacht is granted to port authorities and/or local or regional authorities that have realized a development project:

- Located in a port city interface zone and/or on a former port site.
- Completed in the last three years.
- Created as a part of a global development strategy for the port city and its ecosystem.
- In line with the sustainable development goals identified in the Agenda 2030 by AIVP (*see the FAQ below for more information about the Agenda 2030 by AIVP*).

Port authorities and local or regional authorities that have collectively carried out a project that meets the eligibility criteria for the prize are encouraged to submit a joint application.

The AIVP Prize Antoine Rufenacht is open to both AIVP members and non-members and to both maritime and river port cities.

Only port authorities and/or local or regional authorities are eligible to apply.

The prize cannot be granted to private stakeholders or individual representatives.

4. THE AGENDA 2030 BY AIVP

The Agenda 2030 by AIVP is the world's first initiative to adapt the UN's 17 Sustainable Development Goals for the specific context of Port city relations. The document published in 2018 sets down 10 goals to be achieved by 2030 and 46 measures for action. Each one of them is connected to several UN SDGs. The Agenda 2030 of the AIVP was submitted to the UN in 2019 as the contribution of port cities to the 17 SDGs, within the framework of the partnership initiated between the AIVP and this international institution. It aims to inspire port and city actors to act following the Agenda 2030 by AIVP, maximizing investment and resources.

The evaluation process for the AIVP Prize Antoine Rufenacht will be based on the main sustainable development goals of the Agenda 2030 by AIVP.

It will be expected from applicants to demonstrate how their projects can be related to the Agenda 2030's main goals and spirit, and how it contributes concretely to design sustainable port cities.

To learn more about the main goals of Agenda 2030 by AIVP, applicants are encouraged to read the technical document:

<https://www.aivp.org/en/home/acting-sustainably/agenda-2030/>.

5. SELECTION CRITERIA

The Jury is responsible for evaluating and selecting the applications according to the following criteria:

- **Originality:** What is the added value of the project in terms of planning, realization, and uses, to improve port city relations?
- **Relevance of the project:** What is the relevance of the project in light of the Agenda 2030 of AIVP?
- **Impact:** What are the concrete results obtained by the project regarding specific goals of the Agenda 2030 by AIVP?
- **Model character:** How can the project serve as a model?
- The **quality/clarity** of the application: Is the proposal clear and well-presented?

6. JURY

The AIVP Prize Antoine Rufenacht is co-chaired by Dr. Geraldine Knatz and Dr. Carola Hein.

Carola Hein is Professor and Head of the Chair *History of Architecture and Urban Planning* at Delft University of Technology. She is the founding director of the PortCityFutures Center. Carola Hein will chair the Expert panel. It will be responsible for evaluating, from a technical point of view, each application. It is composed of 7 members (including Carola Hein) recognized for their contributions to enhancing port city relations as researcher, architect; urbanist, engineer, or former port director.

Geraldine Knatz was the first woman to serve as the Executive Director of the Port of Los Angeles. She is also a Professor of the Practice of Policy and Engineering at the University of Southern California. Geraldine Knatz will chair the Grand jury that will choose the winner of the AIVP Prize Antoine Rufenacht. The Grand jury will be composed of 7 high-level representatives, including Geraldine Knatz, from each continent as port city Mayors, port Executive Directors, or representatives of international organizations.

The jury will act independently.

7. SELECTION PROCESS

The selection process is carried out in three stages.

Firstly, the AIVP will review all entries to ensure they meet all the eligibility criteria to apply. If this is the

case, applicant projects will enter the official selection. If it is not, they will be eliminated.

Secondly, the Expert panel, led by Carola Hein, will assess each entry, and deliberate in identifying 5 maximum projects to be voted on by the Grand jury.

The final decision will be taken by the Grand jury under the responsibility of Geraldine Knatz. It will be based both on the expert panel recommendations and an in-person interview of the finalists.

8. KEY DATES

3 March 2026: opening of the call for application.

31 July 2026 (midnight GMT): closing of the call for application.

August 2026: the expert panel will assess each entry according to the same analysis grid.

12 and 13 September 2026: the expert panel will meet to put in common their assessment conclusions and to choose the finalist projects.

2 and 3 November 2026: in-person meeting of the Grand jury in Dunkirk (France), choice of the winner.

3 to 6 November 2026: announcement of the winner and official prize ceremony during the AIVP World Conference in Dunkirk (France).

Candidates will be informed of the eligibility of their application by e-mail no later than one week after their submission.

Candidates will be notified of the expert panel's decision no later than the 18th of September. The selected candidates will be invited to attend the Grand jury meeting in Dunkirk, France, to defend their project on 2 and 3 November.

9. PRIZE BENEFITS

There is no money consideration for the AIVP Prize Antoine Rufenacht. The winner will benefit from international recognition and higher visibility thanks to the AIVP's worldwide profile.

Several compensations are included:

1/ The project meets the prize's main eligibility criteria:

- It will enter the official selection and will be promoted through publications on the Prize's website and social media.
- The project will be assessed by the Expert panel. Depending on its decision, your project

may be listed as a good practice of Agenda 2030 by AIVP (*see the FAQ below for more information about the good practices of Agenda 2030 by AIVP*).

2/ The project is one of the finalists:

- Applicants will be interviewed by the Grand jury during an in-person meeting in Le Havre (France).
- Applicants will benefit from a higher visibility including a special highlighting during the AIVP World Conference.

3/ The project is selected as the winner

- An official reward ceremony will be held during the AIVP World Conference in Lisbon.
- Representatives of the winning project will receive special recognition exclusively dedicated to the winner.

10. APPLICATIONS

Applications should be submitted in English by e-mail at submission@aivp-rufenacht-prize.org using the application form and following the instructions provided.

Applications close on **31 July 2026 at midnight GMT**.

REQUIREMENTS: to be valid, the application form must:

- be signed by the official representative of the entity submitting the application form (port director, mayor, president, etc.).
- Include all the supporting documents required:
 - o A map that indicates the location and the perimeter of the project.
 - o A masterplan and visualization of the project.
 - o 5 to 6 key pictures of the realized project.
 - o A timeline or a process chart indicating the main steps of your project from its design to its implementation.
 - o Minimum 2 and maximum 6 pictures of the site before the project

Optional: applicants are also invited to provide any additional documents they consider relevant to present their project such as letters of support from the port authority, the local authority or other institution, press articles, etc. The number of these

additional documents should remain limited to the most relevant.

11. CANDIDATE COMMITMENT

By accepting to apply candidates are engaged:

- To submit to the AIVP Prize Antoine Rufenacht's team all the additional information required, in particular in the context of the application process or for communication purposes.
- To attend, at their own cost, the Grand jury meeting in Le Havre (France) and the AIVP World Conference in Lisbon (Portugal) for the official prize ceremony if the applicant project has been selected, as a finalist.
- To respect the Expert panel and Grand jury decisions.

By applying, candidates consent to the processing of data provided in the application form to manage and promote the AIVP Prize Antoine Rufenacht.

12. DATA PROTECTION

All personal data made available by the application will be processed exclusively to manage the AIVP Prize Antoine Rufenacht by the AIVP as the entity responsible for processing the data. The AIVP's contact details are the following:

International Association Cities & Ports
5, quai de la Saône
76600 Le Havre, France
Tel. (+33) 2 35 42 78 84

The AIVP can be contacted regarding any issues related to the processing of data carried out in this context and for these purposes at contact@aivp-rufenacht-prize.org.

The personal data will be kept for the period necessary for the attribution and management of the Prize AIVP Antoine Rufenacht, except in cases where another period is required by the applicable legislation.

Some data, namely, the name of the person responsible for the application, date of application, and personal data potentially included in the works and publications delivered, as well as the data collected in the award ceremony, will be kept indefinitely by the AIVP for archiving purposes in the context of the AIVP Antoine Rufenacht Prize's activity.

The AIVP guarantees to the Data Subjects the exercise of their rights concerning their data such as the right of access, rectification, erasure, objection, restriction

of processing, and portability under the applicable legislation.

Frequently asked questions

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1. WHY THE AIVP ANTOINE RUFENACHT PRIZE IS RELATED TO THE AGENDA 2030 BY AIVP?

Designing port city development projects requires sustainable development approaches at a time when port cities, all over the world, face impacts of climate change and need to improve their relationship with citizens to remain attractive. The Agenda 2030 by AIVP is a recognized framework to help port cities to achieve sustainable development and to implement related policies.

2. DOES MY PROJECT NEED TO MEET ALL THE AGENDA 2030'S GOALS?

Your project needs to focus at least on one of the 10 main goals of the Agenda 2030 by AIVP which are the following:

1/ Climate change adaptation: preparing port cities for the consequences of climate change.

2/ Energy transition & circular economy: developing innovative sustainable industries and energy projects for port city territories.

3/ Sustainable mobility: finding new mobility solutions connecting city and port.

4/ Renewed governance: using innovative governance for sustainable port cities.

5/ Investing in human capital: human capital for port and social development.

6/ Port culture and identity: local port identity as a key asset for a sustainable relationship with citizens.

7/ Quality food for all: port cities are crucial for sustainable food distribution.

8/ Port city interface: the port city interface is a resource to mix different programs.

9/ Health & Life quality: having good living conditions is a priority for the port city.

10/ Protecting biodiversity: the port city's biodiversity must be preserved and protected.

3. WHAT IS THE AIVP WORLD CONFERENCE?

The AIVP World Conference is the international meeting place for port cities to share their knowledge, promote projects implemented, establish international cooperation links, take up the challenges of the sustainable port city, and make their points of view known to international organizations. The conviviality of the AIVP network, maintained since its creation, contributes to the transparency and richness of the debates, creating a unique meeting moment that makes a difference.

4. WHAT IS A GOOD PRACTICE OF THE AGENDA 2030 BY AIVP?

AIVP's mission is to share knowledge for sustainable port city relationships, following a pragmatic approach, based on real cases. AIVP members can find inspiration to achieve the 10 goals defined in the Agenda 2030 by AIVP for sustainable port cities. To date, more than 150 best practices have been selected, and everyone is a real, concrete solution.

This library of projects is the result of over 30 years of collective experience built up through the AIVP network. These best practices are a source of inspiration and a valuable decision-making tool.

5. WHAT IS THE OFFICIAL LANGUAGE TO APPLY?

Applications for the AIVP Prize Antoine Rufenacht must be submitted in English.

6. HOW WILL THE EXPERT PANEL PROCEED TO ASSESS EACH ENTRY?

Expert panel works will be carried out in two stages. Firstly, each expert will make an individual evaluation of each entry according to co-defined criteria. Secondly, experts will meet in person to share their results and decide what will be the finalist applications to be voted on by the Grand jury.

The expert panel will provide a statement justifying its decision.

7. HOW WILL THE GRAND JURY MEETING PROCEED?

The Grand jury meeting will be carried out in three stages. Firstly, Carola Hein will share the expert panel conclusions and explain how the finalist applicants have been chosen.

Secondly, the Grand jury, under the responsibility of Geraldine Knatz, will interview each shortlisted applicant during a 60-minute meeting that will include a short presentation of the project and a discussion between the Grand jury and the candidate. Then the Grand jury will deliberate behind closed doors to choose the winner.

8. WILL MEMBERS OF THE EXPERT PANEL BE PART OF THE GRAND JURY MEETING?

Members of the Expert panel will be invited to attend the Grand jury meeting to be part of the finalist's interviews. Only Carola Hein, co-chairwoman of the Prize, will take part in the final decision to choose the winner.

9. WILL THERE BE TRANSLATION FACILITIES DURING THE GRAND JURY MEETING FOR THE FINALISTS' INTERVIEWS?

The Grand jury meeting will be held in English. Translation facilities could be provided if requested by finalists.

10. IF MY PROJECT IS ONE OF THE FINALISTS, COULD I TAKE PART IN THE GRAND JURY MEETING VIA VIDEOCONFERENCE?

There will be no videoconference facilities for the Grand jury meeting. Hearing the finalists in person will contribute to the prestige of the Prize and will guarantee them a quality of listening and exchange not possible via videoconference.

Through this in-person meeting, AIVP wishes to perpetuate the spirit of the meetings between port city stakeholders that have been organized by AIVP for over 30 years. These meetings have always been synonymous with conviviality, work, and cooperation. They are the very foundation of the AIVP's identity.

11. WILL THE EXPERT PANEL INTERVIEW APPLICANTS?

The Expert panel won't interview applicants. Entries assessment will be based only on the information provided on the application form. That's why it is in the best interest of candidates to provide a clear and comprehensive description of their project according to the information requested.

12. IF MY APPLICATION IS A FINALIST, WHICH LEVEL OF REPRESENTATIVE IS EXPECTED TO BE INTERVIEWED BY THE GRAND JURY?

Candidates will be free to decide what level of representative is better for them to defend their project in front of the Grand jury. Candidates should consider that Grand jury members could have technical and precise questions and will expect the candidate to be able to answer.

13. WHICH LEVEL OF REPRESENTATIVE IS EXPECTED AT THE OFFICIAL PRIZE CEREMONY?

A high level of representation will be requested for the official prize ceremony: the Mayor or his representative for a nomination from a port city, the Port Director or his President for a nomination from a port authority.

14. WILL CONCLUSIONS OF THE EXPERT PANEL BE SHARED WITH APPLICANTS?

Detailed conclusions of the Expert panel will be shared only with concerned applicants.