



Thierry Maytraud Awards 2026 - Call for abstract

Apply for the Thierry Maytraud Awards. We invite you to share your approach to urban water management.

For the fourth time this year, the **MAYTRAUD AWARDS** aim to reward, enhance and promote exemplary and innovative public projects and policies, encouraging the integration of stormwater and sustainable water management in urban planning, design and policy.

The trophies are designed **to encourage urban policy stakeholders and urban planners who are not specialists in stormwater management** (developers, urban planners, landscape architects, etc.) to come and share their perspectives and approaches to water management by showcasing a project or initiative they have carried out. Although stormwater management is not central to their activities, they are required to integrate this issue as one of the challenges, problems, constraints, or opportunities in their projects or strategies, with ambitions that go beyond the question of how to manage stormwater.

Three categories are proposed:

1. **Urban renewal:** on public or private land, brownfield rehabilitation, architectural project, neighborhood or precinct
2. **Strategies and urban planning:** public policy, planning, city or catchment scale strategies
3. **Participation and cross-sectoral community engagement:** local engagement activities with communities, agencies, private business and urban developers etc.

The approaches we would like to see developed in the presentation of these achievements are multidisciplinary and cross-cutting. They can be presented by several speakers.

They relate in particular to:

- The professional organisation, multi-professional and multi-partners, from the design to the social acceptability and the individual's place in the project
- The strategies, methodologies developed to join the different aims and objectives of a project, from design to management
- The "positive externalities" of the project, its contributions to the environmental quality, the improvement of urban biodiversity and adaptation to climate change.
- The economic and financial issues

The Awards pay tribute to [Thierry Maytraud](#), urban planner and hydrologist, founder of ATM and partner of Novatech since its creation, who sadly past away in June 2022.

Thierry Maytraud Awards 2026 – Guidelines

The organisers of the Novatech international conference are keen to ensure that the conference attracts a wide range of urban policy, planning, architecture and design professionals, who are not necessarily specialists in stormwater management. We welcome the perspectives from these professionals, who, while not having stormwater as their central focus, may have insights from the opportunities and challenges posed by stormwater in their projects.

For the fourth time this year, the **MAYTRAUD AWARDS** aim to reward, enhance and promote exemplary and innovative public projects and policies, encouraging the integration of stormwater and sustainable water management in urban planning, design and policy.

The Thierry Maytraud Awards aim to **recognize urban development projects, planning policy, or cross-sector mobilization strategies** that have taken an outstanding or innovative approach to stormwater management.

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- The professional organization, multi-professional and multi-partners, from the design to the social acceptability and the individual's place in the project
- The strategies, methodologies developed to join the different aims and objectives of a project, from design to management
- The "positive externalities" of the project, its contributions to the environmental quality, the improvement of urban biodiversity and adaptation to climate change.
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Article 1 – Themes et aims

The **MAYTRAUD AWARDS** aim is to reward, enhance and promote exemplary and innovative public projects and policies, encouraging the integration of stormwater and sustainable water management in urban planning, design and policy.

3 categories are proposed:

1. **Urban renewal:** on public or private land, brownfield rehabilitation, architectural project, neighborhood or precinct
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Article 2 – Potential applicants

Any legal entity, public or private, French or foreign, that has developed, designed, and/or implemented a public initiative or policy in line with the themes and objectives of the Awards and wishes to promote this initiative as part of Novatech 2026, may apply for the Awards. The initiatives must have been completed and/or the strategies implemented (not just planned).

The Awards are aimed (but not exclusively) at recognizing architects, landscape architects, developers, urban planners, sociologists, public and private entities, project owners, and those responsible for and managing public policies for cities and regions.

An application may be submitted by co-authors from different organizations, but the main author is the project leader. Ultimately, it is the operation or public policy that is selected and, if applicable, the winner of the Trophies.

Article 3 – Organizers

The **THIERRY MAYTRAUD AWARDS** are organized by GRAIE

Campus LyonTech la Doua - CS52132 - F-69603 Villeurbanne cedex - France

Partnerships with the technical press are currently being established, with a proposal to co-organize the Thierry Maytraud Awards.

Article 4 – The contest and the awards

The preselected finalists will receive a free invitation to a Novatech conference day on Wednesday, July 1, 2026 (gala dinner included). No additional fees will be required.

The Awards ceremony will take place on Wednesday evening, July 1, 2026.

Winners will benefit from a publication and a strong promotion of their project in the technical press (details to be announced in early 2026). The proposal is still eligible for a "classic" presentation (oral or poster) at Novatech even if it has not been selected for the Awards.

Article 5 – Awards organization

Awards are organized in 3 steps:

- Abstract submission -before December 5, 2025
- Pre-selection by the jury and notification of candidates in March 2026
- Oral presentation of the finalists, final jury selection and Awards ceremony on Wednesday 1st of July, 2026

5.1 – Application process

Each candidate must specify that they wish to participate in the 2026 MAYTRAUD AWARDS as they submit their abstract on the online form by December 5, 2025.

Graie is available to candidates to help them assess the suitability of their application before they submit their application file.

Application includes: the online application form and a 4-page abstract with detailed presentation responding to the selection criteria. It must be conformed to the author guidelines and the Novatech document template. The abstract may include additional illustration pages (maps, figures, pictures, etc). Applicants will receive an email confirming that their abstract submission has been received.

5.2 -Selection criteria

The jury will take into account the following criteria in selecting the Award winners:

- Integration of stormwater management within the project,
- Use of an integrated sustainable development approach (environment, economy and society) within the overall project,
- Collaboration, partnership and good governance,
- Innovation,
- Transferability and potential to provide lessons for broader application

5.3 – Selection procedure

A jury will select candidates through a two-step process:

A pre-selection on file :

The pre-selection committee will be composed of members of the Novatech 2026 program committee, representatives of media partners, and the chairs of the scientific committee. In February, 2026, they will first select 4 finalists per category (maximum), among the candidates.

Candidates will be notified in March 2026 of their selection as finalist.

Final selection

A jury will select the Award winners once the projects have been presented orally on Wednesday 1st of July, 2026. The jury will be composed* of representatives from Metropole of Lyon, the Rhône Méditerranée Corse Water Agency, Cerema, the French Ministry of Ecological Transition, the French Landscape Federation, the Urban planning Agency of the Metropole of Lyon, the National Union of CAUE (Council for Architecture, Urban Planning, and the Environment), the Awards partner journals and both co-chairs of the Novatech scientific committee.

Novatech public is invited to vote for their favorite project, across all categories, live and online.

The jury will award one trophy for each of the three categories. The jury reserves the right not to award a trophy if none of the projects submitted meet the criteria for the awards. The People's Choice Award will also be highlighted. Moreover, the jury might award an additional price: the “jury’s favorite”. The jury’s decisions are final and no correspondence will be entered into.

** to be confirmed*

5.4 – Promotion of award winners

The winning projects will be promoted, at a minimum:

- At the awards ceremony on July 1, in the presence of Novatech 2026 participants
- On the Novatech and Graie websites
- In the technical press, depending on partnerships

Project leaders will receive a kit to freely advertise the winning projects.

Article 6 – Commitment of the candidates

Participation in the Novatech conference:

Finalists undertake to attend the conference on Wednesday 1st of July, 2026 and to present their project to the jury according to the framework and format set by the Novatech organizers (notably the presentation time and the ppt template).

Accuracy of the provided information:

Candidates undertake to communicate only exact and accurate information in their application file and not to omit information that may distort the jury's judgment. The Jury reserves the right to verify information provided by the candidates.

Information dissemination:

By participating, the candidates authorize the organizers to publicize and disseminate the information provided in the application file as part of the MAYTRAUD AWARDS.

Award winners authorize the organizers to facilitate the promotion of their project, and more specifically among the technical press partners of Novatech. For example, the conference organizers may require the Award winners to provide supporting information (such as photographs, drawings) provided with the application for use in the publicity of the project and Award; candidates agree to such publicity. The Award winners undertake to participate in possible additional interviews to promote their project among the technical press.

Rules and regulation acceptance:

Participation in the MAYTRAUD AWARDS implies unconditional acceptance of these rules.

Article 7 – Cancellation clause

Organizers reserve the right to cancel the 2026 MAYTRAUD AWARDS. In the event of such a cancellation, candidates will be informed as quickly as possible.

Villeurbanne, September 5, 2025