



## The District 2026 will recognise the most impactful funds and deals in European real estate this year

The event will host The World-Class District Awards 2026, which honour investors, capital firms and destinations whose projects are contributing to the growth of the sector

Interested parties may submit their applications until 23 August, with the winners to be announced at a gala dinner in Madrid on 23 September

**Madrid, April 30, 2026.** – Madrid will host The World-Class District Awards 2026, Europe's most prestigious real estate awards, which will reveal the best property transactions and funds of the year. The distinctions, which will take place as part of [The District 2026](#), aim to recognise investors, capital companies, real estate projects, and regions that are leading the way with their impact on the evolution of the industry.

The World-Class District Awards 2026, which in its previous edition received over 120 applications from more than 17 countries, consist of five categories that will highlight the best practices driving real estate forward. Key criteria for evaluation will include profitability, innovation, strategy, execution, and addressing current challenges such as the housing deficit and compliance with ESG criteria.

### Applications now open

Firms interested in participating in the recognitions can [submit](#) their applications **until 23rd August** in the following categories:

- **Best Real Estate Transaction of the Year:** Highlight the operation valued at over €20 million that has delivered exceptional returns for its investors, clearly surpassing the average return of comparable assets, measured in terms of IRR or ROE, and whose essential supporting data can be disclosed publicly.
- **Best Real Estate Investment Destination:** Awards the region applying the most effective regulations to create a legal, economic, and social environment conducive to attracting property projects and transactions.
- **Real Estate Transaction with the Greatest ESG Impact:** Recognises the operation that has demonstrated a high degree of responsibility in environmental, social, and governance terms, either through adherence to these principles or by implementing innovative and exemplary initiatives in this field.
- **Best Real Estate Fund, Management Company, or Investment Group:** Distinguish the team whose intervention has been pivotal in closing investment or divestment deals and whose contribution has significantly impacted the real estate market's evolution.

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- **Best Real Estate Project or Development:** Awards the project or investment, either underway or completed, that offers the greatest opportunities for the sector, aimed at elevating the built environment in line with ESG criteria. Particular attention will be given to proposals incorporating NZEB (Nearly Zero Energy Buildings) or Net Zero Emissions standards, as well as those demonstrating a significant use of technology.

The distinctions are open to funds, private equity firms, family offices, administrations, operators, executives, startups, property managers, consultants, and accelerators with distinctive proposals in the property industry that foster transformation. The winners will be announced on 23rd September at a gala, which will take place for the first time in Madrid.

### **The District 2026 as a showcase of excellence**

The World-Class District Awards 2026 is one of the activities to be held within The District 2026, Europe's largest real estate event from the capital perspective. From **22nd to 24th September at IFEMA Madrid**, the gathering will bring together over 15,000 international executives who will learn about the macro-trends shaping property industry in the coming months, the geopolitical challenges facing the sector, and the most prominent projects in each asset class. Over 450 international experts will discuss these topics at the congress. Additionally, the summit will feature a hospitality zone where over 360 firms will present projects for potential investment.

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**About The District** (22–24 September 2026, Madrid): The District is the largest European event dedicated to real estate from an investment perspective. The summit features a Hospitality area and a content programme within The District World Summit — the global reference congress on capital structures in the real estate industry — comprising five auditoriums. It is the foremost meeting forum bringing together the different players across the real estate sector who are seeking opportunities and new property projects to drive urban transformation, with the aim of shaping the future of the industry in Europe. The District is an event organised by NEBEXT – Next Business Exhibitions.

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