



EUROPEAN COMMISSION

ENTERPRISE AND INDUSTRY DIRECTORATE-GENERAL

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Europe Social Innovation Competition

2013 Prize

Unlocking potential, creating new work

Terms and Conditions

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The Europe Social Innovation Prize Competition (hereinafter referred to as "the Competition") is organised by the European Commission (hereinafter referred to as "the Commission") with the support of Nesta, Euclid Network and of the consortium Ascent Communications (hereinafter referred to as "the Contractors"). The Department of the Commission which manages the Competition is the Directorate General Enterprise and Industry.

The Competition website where entries must be submitted is the following:

<http://ec.europa.eu/enterprise/social-innovation-competition>.

The Competition is funded under the European Union budget. The legal basis for this competition is the Competitiveness and Innovation Framework Programme (see http://ec.europa.eu/cip/documents/cip-legal-base/index_en.htm). The Competition is limited to activities located in the 27 EU Member States, and those countries that established an agreement to participate in the Competitiveness and Innovation Framework Programme (see for latest list: http://ec.europa.eu/cip/faq/index_en.htm#0901262484312773).

Please read these terms and conditions carefully before submitting an entry. By submitting an entry, you accept these terms and conditions and agree to comply with them.

1. Objective of the 2013 prize competition

The Competition aims at raising awareness of social innovation's potential to foster growth, entrepreneurship and provide solutions for today's challenges. It will engage businesses (including start-ups), social economy and citizens in Europe in a huge range of sectors, thereby creating new connections and job opportunities. It will also include a strong mentoring component that will benefit not only the winners but also the contestants having submitted the best ideas. The award ceremony of the 2013 edition is expected to take place in May 2013.

More specifically, the 2013 edition is entitled "*Unlocking potential, creating new work*" and aims at highlighting and supporting the best social innovation solutions to help people move towards work or into new types of work. Further background and illustrations are available on the Competition website. All types of ideas and solutions are welcome, even if they are not mature yet.

The Competition has been conceived in a way which does not limit it to the award of prizes but also offers a wide range of benefits to all contestants, be it in terms of free publicity given to ideas and contestants, of mentoring proposed to the selected contestants and of connecting contestants with a wide range of social innovation experts, organisations and networks from various countries in Europe and beyond. Eventually an entry might not win the prize but draw interest from a third party and receive support from other sources.

2. Timelines

Entries for the first phase of the 2013 edition of the Competition must be received on the Competition website by **21 December 2012, 11:59:59 CET (noon)**.

Late entries will not be accepted. The Commission is not responsible for entries which are lost, damaged or late due to computer, network or telecommunications failure.

In **January-February 2013**, entries will be assessed and the best 30 entries will qualify for the second phase (30 is the indicative maximum number). The selected contestants will be called "semi-finalists". The other contestants will be informed that their entry has not passed the first phase.

In **March 2013**, the semi-finalists will be invited for a two-day mentoring session where they will receive some coaching by international business, communication and finance professionals, social

economy entrepreneurs and public sector organisations. The travel and accommodation costs for their participation (in principle one person per entry) will be covered by the Commission. The fact not to participate in the mentoring session would not prevent semi-finalists to compete for the second phase. Their participation is however highly recommended.

In **April 2013**, the second phase of the 2013 edition of the Competition will start. On the basis of the support and inputs received during the mentoring session, the semi-finalists will be asked to rework and resubmit their entry. Judging criteria for that second phase will be further specified and communicated to them, once the first phase is closed.

In **early May 2013**, from the revised entries submitted by the semi-finalists, the Commission will select the best 10 entries (10 is the indicative maximum number). The selected contestants will be called "finalists" and will be invited to the award ceremony that will take place expectedly in late May 2013. The travel and accommodation costs for their participation (in principle one person per entry) will be covered by the Commission. The other semi-finalists will be informed that their entry has not passed the second phase. They will nonetheless be encouraged to join the award ceremony, though it is not foreseen that the Commission covers their travel and accommodation costs.

In **late May 2013**, the 3 winners of the prizes (3 is the indicative maximum number) will be announced at the award ceremony amongst the 10 finalists who have been invited. Following the ceremony, the Commission will initiate the transfer of the financial prizes once the legal identification form and the bank identification form have been filled in, signed and returned with the necessary supporting documents to the European Commission.

In **June or July 2013**, the winners and the other finalists will be invited for an additional mentoring session to mature the implementation plan of their proposal. The travel and accommodation costs for their participation (in principle one person per entry) will be covered by the Commission.

Apart from the deadline applicable to the receipt of entries for the first phase of competition (**by 21 December 2012, 11:59:59 CET, noon**), other timelines remain indicative at this stage and will be confirmed by the Commission thereafter, with sufficient notice to allow planning for the contestants.

3. Prize

The Commission plans to award a maximum of 3 prizes to the best ideas according to the judgement criteria set out below. The amount of each of the 3 prizes is 20 000 euros. There will not be any ranking among the winners.

The winners of the Competition are expected to use the financial prize to implement their ideas and make it benefit their community, but no strict condition is set by the Commission as regards the use of the awarded funds. Winners are responsible for payment of taxes and charges applicable when using the prize money.

At all stages, entries will be assessed by a jury of indicatively 10 members appointed by, but independent from the Commission, composed of various profiles and backgrounds and originating from various countries. The jury will make recommendations to the Commission which will have the final decision on the lists of semi-finalists, finalists and winners.

The organisation of the Competition is also supported by the Contractors that will notably facilitate jury's meetings and organise the mentoring sessions.

4. General conditions – Eligibility

The Competition is open to everyone (individuals, organisations or groups) established or resident in EU Member States and in countries having established an agreement to participate in the Competitiveness and Innovation Programme (see for latest list: http://ec.europa.eu/cip/faq/index_en.htm#0901262484312773). Ideas and proposals from all sources, sectors and all types of organisations including for-profit, non-for-profit, or private companies are welcome.

Entries must be original ideas from contestants. They may propose new ways to combine or implement existing solutions, but cannot be exact copies of those.

Contestants may submit more than one entry and be named as a partner in more than one entry. All your costs of entering the Competition must be borne by contestants, unless otherwise duly stated in official communication by the Commission.

Entries must be received on the Competition website by 21 December 2012, 11:59:59 CET (noon), Entries received after this deadline will be considered ineligible and will be automatically rejected.

Entries must be submitted on the Competition website in one of the official languages of the European Union. They are expected preferably in English.

Members and staff of the Commission and of its agencies, staff of the Contractors and individuals working on the Competition are not eligible to submit an entry.

The contestants undertake to take all the necessary measures to prevent any risk of conflict of interests which could affect the impartial and objective performance of the Competition. Such conflict of interests could arise in particular as a result of economic interest, political or national affinity, family or emotional reasons, or any other shared interest.

The contestants shall undertake to take whatever steps are necessary to rectify this situation at once. The Commission reserves the right to check that the measures taken are appropriate and may demand that the contestants take additional measures, if necessary, within a certain time. Any situation constituting or likely to lead to a conflict of interests during the Competition must be brought to the attention of the Commission, in writing, without delay.

Entries must not invade publicity rights or privacy of any person, living or deceased, or otherwise infringe upon any individual's personal or proprietary rights. Entries and supporting visual material must be suitable for publication in a public forum and must not contain nudity, profanity or threats of violence. Entries must not serve advertising purposes for products and services (commercial and non-commercial) of particular businesses or economic interests or be inappropriate in any other way.

Before winners of the Competition can receive their prize, the Commission may check their eligibility by asking them to sign a declaration of honour that they are not in a position of bankruptcy and are not guilty of professional misconduct or in a similar situation that prevents them from receiving the prize. In case of doubts, additional evidence may be required by the Commission.

The Commission will use the contact details provided in the entry form to contact the contestants about the Competition. The Commission is not responsible for inaccuracies in the details which have been submitted by the contestants.

The Commission intends to run the Competition in the most open and transparent manner. For that purpose, the Commission may post the summary of each and every entry – exactly as it has been submitted by contestants in the entry form – on the Competition website, on the Europa website or on

dedicated social media accounts for the Competition. In addition the Commission will carry out promotional activities and publish results of the Competition. By entering the Competition, contestants agree with this policy and consent to the use of their name, of the summary of their proposal, and of additional photographs/recordings/visual material/web links which have been attached to their entry.

By entering the Competition and registering their entry on the Competition website, contestants certify that they meet these eligibility criteria and that all information they submitted is true, accurate and complete. They agree to abide by and be bound by the Competition rules and the decisions of the Commission, which are final in all matters relating to this Competition.

If an entry is submitted by a group of individuals or organisations, the person completing the entry form is responsible for compliance with these terms & conditions by other group members.

5. Judging criteria

The successful entry will be the one that best meets the criteria outlined below, based on impact and measures. Additional information is provided in the frequently asked questions section (FAQs) and in the entry form template, which are available on the Competition website.

Judging criteria for the Competition first phase will be the following three, equally weighted:

- *degree of innovation* (new approaches, or ideas combined or implemented in new ways);
- *potential for systemic change* in terms of impact (potential measurable impact on helping your target group moving towards/into work) or scale (potential of being inspirational or being transferred to another EU Member State at least);
- *potential for sustainability* (ideas that can be sustained and continue to have significant positive impacts on helping the target groups moving towards work or into new types of work).

Those criteria may be further elaborated for the second phase in order to assess the revised entries by semi-finalists and select finalists and winners.

The Commission has sole and absolute discretion to determine which submissions, in any, merit to be selected for the next phase and to be awarded a prize. Furthermore the award decision remains subject to the availability of budgetary appropriations.

The Commission reserves the right to refuse any entry; to suspend or terminate the Competition at any time without prior notice; to vary the form and substance of the Competition including the timelines, the judging criteria and the availability and amount of financial support; to reduce or increase the number of entries selected for any phase, including the final prize; not to award the prize; and/or to reject any entry if the contestant is in breach of these terms and conditions.

The Commission will inform the public of any such a change on the Competition website. Changes will take effect from the date they are posted on the Competition website. Contestants are meant to visit the website regularly in order to get the most up-to-date information.

6. How to enter the competition

Entries are to be submitted to the above-referenced Competition website.

For the first phase of the Competition a short form will have to be filled in and submitted on line by contestants. For the second phase, this form may be further elaborated, should the judging criteria be slightly revised or specified for the selection of finalists and winners.

Contestants for the first phase will also be asked to provide a brief summary of their idea that may be posted on the Competition website, on the Europa website or on dedicated social media accounts for the Competition in line with the communication policy stated above.

Subject to the possibilities offered by the Competition website and by the dedicated social media accounts, the contestants may be encouraged to support their entry with any visual material, recordings, additional documents that they deem relevant. Allowed formats for the submission of such files on the Competition website will be specified.

7. Ownership/Use of the results

Ownership of the idea and of its implementation results, including industrial and intellectual property rights, and of the reports and other documents relating to it, shall be vested in the beneficiary.

Without prejudice to the previous paragraph, the contestants grant the Commission the right to display, reproduce by any technical procedure, translate or communicate the idea and its results by any medium, including on the Europa website, provided it does not thereby breach its confidentiality obligations or existing industrial and intellectual property rights.

The same applies to the Contractors who may be using such data for evaluation purposes.

Any communication or publication by the winner of the prize, including at a conference or seminar, shall indicate that the action has received funding from the Union.

By submitting an entry, contestants declare that they have obtained, or will obtain, all authorisations, consents and permissions necessary to submit their entry, carry out their proposal and comply with these terms and conditions and, to the best of their knowledge, that their entry will not infringe any intellectual property or other third party rights or breach any contractual obligation.

The Commission assumes no responsibility for disputes between persons claiming copyrights on any sort in relation to an entry submitted for the Competition.

Where industrial and intellectual property rights, including rights of third parties, exist prior to the Competition ("pre-existing intellectual property rights"), the contestant shall establish a list which shall specify all rights of ownership and use in the pre-existing intellectual property rights and may be asked to disclose it to the Commission – should he be proposed as a winner – at the latest prior to the commencement of implementation of his proposal.

Prize winners shall ensure that it has all rights to use any pre-existing intellectual property rights in implementation of their proposal.

8. Equal opportunity

The European Union has the task to promote equality between women and men and shall aim in all its activities to eliminate gender inequalities. In this context, women are particularly encouraged to enter and be involved in the Competition.

9. Personal data

Entries will be processed by computer. All personal data (such as names, addresses and other details) will be processed pursuant to Regulation (EC) No 45/2001 on the protection of individuals with regard to the processing of personal data by the European Union institutions and bodies and on the free movement of such data.

Details about contestants and replies to the questions in the registration form are necessary in order to assess their entries and contact them about the Competition. Data will be processed solely for the purposes of the performance, management and monitoring of the Competition by the Directorate General for Enterprise and Industry acting as data controller without prejudice to possible transmission to the bodies charged with monitoring or inspection task in application of European Union law.

Contestants will have the right to access their personal data and the right to rectify any such data. Should the contestants have any queries concerning the processing of their personal data, they will address them to the entity acting as data controller and will have right of recourse at any time to the European Data Protection Supervisor.

Contractors supporting the Commission for the organisation of the Competition are bound to strict legal obligations as regards the processing of data of third parties.

10. Liability

The prize beneficiary shall have sole responsibility for complying with any legal obligations incumbent on him.

The Commission shall not, in any circumstances or on any grounds, be held liable in the event of a claim during or after the Competition relating to any damage caused during the proposal's execution. Consequently, the Commission will not entertain any request for indemnity or reimbursement accompanying any such claim.

Except in cases of force majeure, the prize beneficiary shall make good any damage sustained by the Commission as a result of the execution or faulty execution of the proposal.

The prize beneficiary shall bear sole liability vis-à-vis third parties, including for damage of any kind sustained by them while the proposal is being implemented.

11. Checks and audits

The prize beneficiaries of the Competition are expected to use the financial prize to implement their ideas and make it benefit their community, but no strict condition is set by the Commission as regards the use of the awarded funds.

Nonetheless the prize beneficiary undertakes to provide any detailed information, including information in electronic format, requested by the Commission or by any other outside body authorised by the Commission.

The prize beneficiary shall keep at the Commission's disposal all original documents, especially accounting and tax records, or, in exceptional and duly justified cases, certified copies of original documents relating to the competition for a period of five years.

The prize beneficiary undertakes to allow Commission staff and outside personnel authorised by the Commission the appropriate right of access to sites and premises where the action is carried out.

The Court of Auditors shall have the same rights as the Commission, notably right of access, as regards checks and audits.

12.Recovery

If any amount is unduly paid to the prize beneficiary or if recovery is justified under these terms and conditions, the prize beneficiary undertakes to repay the Commission the sum in question on whatever terms and by whatever date it may specify.

If the prize beneficiary fails to pay by the date set by the Commission, the sum due shall bear interest at the rate indicated in standard grant agreement under European Union law. Interest on late payment shall cover the period between the date set for payment, exclusive, and the date when the Commission receives full payment of the amount owed, inclusive.

Any partial payment shall first be entered against charges and interest on late payment and then against the principal.

If payment has not been made by the due date, sums owed to the Commission may be recovered by offsetting them against any sums owed to the prize beneficiary, in cases where the prize beneficiary also has a claim on the European Union, after informing him accordingly by registered letter with acknowledgement of receipt or equivalent. In exceptional circumstances, justified by the necessity to safeguard the financial interests of the European Union, the Commission may recover by offsetting before the due date of the payment. The prize beneficiary's prior consent shall not be required.

Bank charges occasioned by the recovery of the sums owed to the Commission shall be borne solely by the prize beneficiary.

The prize beneficiary understands that, under Article 299 of the Treaty on the functioning of the European Union, the Commission may adopt an enforceable decision formally establishing an amount as receivable from persons other than States. An action may be brought against such decision before the General Court of the European Union.

13.Law applicable and competent court

The Competition is governed by these terms and conditions, the European Union law applicable and, on a subsidiary basis, by the law of Belgium relating to grants.

The beneficiary may bring legal proceedings regarding decisions by the Commission concerning the application of the provisions of these terms and conditions, and the arrangements for implementing it, before the General Court of the European Union and, in the event of appeal, the Court of Justice.

14. Questions and answers

A list of frequently asked questions (FAQs) and answers will be published on the Competition website and thereby made available to all.