EURECA-PRO STEM Innovation Contest 2022-23 - RULES

TEAMS

- Participants can enrol the contest as **national teams**, where all members are from the same University, or as **international teams**, where some of the members (students and/or mentors) are from two different partner Universities from EURECA-PRO or other European Universities**.**

Student Teams

- Composed by **a maximum of 4 members (at least 1 woman), for national teams, and 6 members (at least 1 woman), for international ones.** Student must be in the **last or second-to-last (fourth semester or henceforth) BSc courses or in Master studies**.
- The team must have **1 leader and 1 co-leader,** at least 1 of them must be a woman.

Mentors

- **For national teams: 1-2 mentors (main mentor and a co-mentor, at least 1 with a PhD degree)** who perform multidisciplinary STEM ('Science, Technology, Engineering, or Mathematics') research and belong to the academic staff of some of the Universities in the EURECA-PRO alliance or other European Universities. Co-mentors can be PhD students.
- **For international teams:** in the case of international teams there could be from **1 to 3 mentors (main mentor and 1-2 co-mentors, at least 1 with a PhD degree)** who perform multidisciplinary STEM ('Science, Technology, Engineering, or Mathematics') research and belong to the academic staff of some of the Universities in the EURECA-PRO alliance or other European Universities. **If there are 3 mentors, they must be from two different partner universities**. Co-mentors can be PhD students.
- Mentors' tasks are to review the project requirements, provide support, promote critical thinking, and empower creative problem solving.
- Nomination of women as mentors will be valued with extra scoring in the project evaluation criteria.

1. Online Registration

Student teams and mentors need to submit the registration form before the deadline (https://docs.google.com/forms/d/19x3H6RDREbMCoT5wNTKvIQDDlML1ZUCXBlEIgPr7AS w/edit), selecting if they want to participate as national or international teams. **Application period from December 12th 2022 to January 16th 2023**.

2. Competition

National and international teams will follow two different competition paths to reach the Final of the Contest:

2.1.   National teams

First Round: 'Conceptual Project'

- Teams will have to elaborate a well-structured conceptual project developing an innovative idea and the steps necessary for its implementation **between February and April 2023.**
- All projects must be **original work** accomplished by the student team (not counterfeit or copied). Teams will be disqualified if they do not meet these requirements.
- Projects need to address **one real-world challenge** provided by a STEM-related company of one of the 8 EURECA-PRO countries, seeking for the best solution to an everyday life problem or a relevant current social need.
- **English or local language 15-minute presentation** by the team's leader and/or co-leader at each partner University from EURECA-PRO or from other European Universities in **April 2023**. All the team members can participate to answer jury's questions.
- Free presentation format including the following aspects:
  - The team
  - The challenge
  - The method of tackling the problem and its viability
  - The expected results and solution
  - The innovation aspect and the practical application.
- **'First Round' jury** composed of 4 members, including representatives of STEM-related companies, with no relationship with the nominated teams. Gender equity in

the jury composition will be highly recommended. The jury will select one winner of the 'First Round' per partner University that will compete in the 'Second Round'.

Second Round: 'Project Implementation'

- **'First Round' nominated teams, one from each University,** will have to execute their conceptual project **between April and July 2023**.
- Project execution with **European Universities financial support,** to a maximum of 1,500 euro, for small equipment items and materials/supplies needed to implement the project. Expenses covered by the budget do not include personnel salaries or travel/workshop costs. Enforcement costs must be properly justified by invoice or delivery document, and three offers must be provided to guarantee transparency in the spending of funds. Additionally, the budget breakdown must be informed by the main mentor during the first month of the 'Second Round' and approved by each EURECA-PRO partner Universities or other participating European Universities.

2.2.   International teams

- All international teams will receive **European Universities financial support** to execute and present their projects in the Final of the Contest, without going through a "First Round: Conceptual Project phase".
- Teams will be founded with a maximum of 1,500 euro, for small equipment items and materials/supplies needed to implement the project. Expenses covered by the budget do not include personnel salaries or travel/workshop costs. Enforcement costs must be properly justified by invoice or delivery document, and three offers must be provided to guarantee transparency in the spending of funds. Additionally, the budget breakdown must be informed by the main mentor during the first two months of project implementation and approved by each EURECA-PRO partner University or other participating European Universities.
- All projects must be **original work** accomplished by the student team (not counterfeit or copied). Teams will be disqualified if they do not meet these requirements.
- Mentors from EURECA-PRO international teams can optionally perform a one-week short mobility to the associated partner university to co-work with their team members. Short mobilities will be financially supported by Erasmus+ funding. Mobilities must be done **before June 2023**.

2.3.   Final Contest for national and international teams

- International teams and national winner teams from the 'First Round' will travel to one of the EURECA-PRO partner Universities, in July 2023, to present their projects in Final of the Contest.

- **Teams will have to make a 15-minute presentation in English** by the team's leader and/or co-leader. All the team members can participate to answer jury's questions.

- The **Jury** will be composed of 4/5 members, including representatives of STEM-related companies, with no relationship with the nominated teams. Gender equity in the jury composition will be highly recommended.

- The Jury will nominate one international and one national winner team.

3. Selection Criteria

- **Teamwork**: Know-how, role definition, dedication, and behaviour.

- **Proposal value**: problem definition, generated ideas, and designed/implemented solutions.

- **Feasibility**: The viability that the conceptual project can be implemented in the 'Second Round' and that it offers a valid solution to the proposed real-life challenge.

- **Degree of innovation**: innovativeness of the project approach and implementation.

- **Social and environmental impact**: potential capacity of the project for generating a positive impact in the community where it is developed, benefiting society, or having a positive effect for the environment.

- **Presentation**: clarity in the exposition, creativity, commitment, communication skills, and persuasive attitude.

4. Awards and recognition

- Travelling and subsistence costs of international teams and national winner teams to the Final of the Contest will be covered by European Universities.

- Final winner teams (students and mentors) will be awarded with **a trip to participate in the 3rd EURECA-PRO Conference on Responsible Consumption and Production held from the 26th to the 29th of September 2023 in Chania (Crete, Greece).** If the winners cannot attend this conference, alternatively they will be

awarded with a **one-month 1st class interrail ticket** to be spent before 31st October 2023.

- All participants in the 'STEM Innovation Contest', students and mentors, will receive certificates of participation in the competition.

5. Entry conditions and Intellectual property rights

- By participating in the 'STEM Innovation Contest', all team members and mentors agree to comply with and be bound by these Official Rules and the decisions made by the EURECA-PRO alliance, and the judges of the competition. The EURECA-PRO alliance reserves the right to disqualify any participant who violates the Contest's Official Rules or behaves in a disruptive or unsportsmanlike manner.

- Invited European Universities will participate under the same rules and conditions than EURECA-PRO partner Universities. Consequently, each European University will be responsible for organizing the local "First Round" phases, as well as for funding the projects' execution costs and the teams' travelling and subsistence costs to participate in the Final of the Contest.

- Participation in the 'STEM Innovation Contest' constitutes consent to the EURECA-PRO alliance or other European Universities' use of winner's name, photograph and home University for promotional purposes without further payment.

- Contestants will own the intellectual property rights to their conceptual Project and/or their implemented Project but will grant to the EURECA-PRO alliance or other European Universities a royalty free license to utilise the Projects for non-commercial purposes after the conclusion of the competition.

- The EURECA-PRO alliance reserves the right to cancel or modify the 'STEM Innovation Contest' if technical failures or any other factor beyond reasonable control impairs the proper functioning of the competition.

- The EURECA-PRO alliance is not responsible for any incorrect or inaccurate information, caused by unforeseen human error or technical failures of any kind, as well as for any injury or damage to persons or property which may be caused from participation in the contest.