



# **EU PRIZE FOR WOMEN INNOVATORS 2014**

## ***Contest Rules***

## **DEFINITIONS:**

Prizes under the Seventh Framework Programme (FP7) are awarded following a contest. The European Prize for Women Innovators 2013 is published and managed by the European Commission.

“Application” means a submission of an application of a contestant for the European Prize for Women Innovators 2013.

“Contestant” means a woman competing for the prize under the terms of this contest

## **Prizes**

Three prizes are awarded:

First prize: EUR 100 000  
Second prize: EUR 50 000  
Third prize: EUR 25 000

Launch	<i>15-April-2013, 12.00.00 Brussels local time</i>
Deadline for submissions	<i>15-October-2013, 17.00.00 Brussels local time</i>
Winners are announced	<i>Early Spring 2014</i>

## **Who can participate?**

Women who are residents in the EU Member States or in Associated Countries to the 7<sup>th</sup> Research and Development Framework Programme (FP7).

The EU Member States are:

Austria, Belgium, Bulgaria, Croatia, Cyprus, Czech Republic, Denmark, Estonia, Finland, France, Germany, Greece, Hungary, Ireland, Italy, Latvia, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Malta, The Netherlands, Poland, Portugal, Romania, Slovakia, Slovenia, Spain, Sweden, United Kingdom.

The Associated Countries are:

Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Faroe Islands, FYR Macedonia, Iceland, Israel, Liechtenstein, Moldova, Montenegro, Norway, Serbia, Switzerland and Turkey

## **Eligibility criteria**

Applications must fulfil all of the following eligibility criteria:

1. The contestant must be a woman.  
Example of proof: Copy of an official document of identification, e.g., passport, identity card.
2. The contestant must be a resident of an EU Member State or a country associated to the Research Framework Programme.  
Example of proof: Copy of any official document of identification (passport, driving licence etc.). If you are not an EU citizen, you must present a document proving your residency in the EU or an Associated Country (e.g. a copy of your visa, or work permit).

3. The contestant must be the founder or co-founder of an existing and active company. Example of proof: Copy of any official document showing that the candidate has founded a company (e.g. copy from the business register).
4. The company has been registered before 1 January 2011.  
Example of proof: Copy of any official document showing the date of registration of the company (e.g. copy from the business register).
5. The annual turnover of the company was at least EUR 0.10 million in 2011 or 2012.  
Example of proof: Copy of a document showing the annual turnover in 2011 or 2012 (e.g. copy of the annual report to the tax authorities).
6. Either the contestant as a natural person or the company founded/co-founded by the contestant have received or is receiving funding from the European Union or the European Atomic Energy Community Research Framework Programme, or from the Competitiveness and Innovation Framework Programme (CIP).  
Example of proof: Copy of a document showing past or current EU funding.

### **Award criteria**

The winners of the European Prize for Women Innovators 2013 will be judged according to the following award criteria:

- Originality and marketability of the developed product or service provided by the company of the candidate.
- Economic relevance for Europe  
The economic relevance of a product or service of the company for Europe will be estimated by the number of countries (in or outside the EU) where the product or service is sold, and by the size of the turnover achieved with this service or product in 2011 or 2012.
- Social relevance for Europe  
The social relevance of a product or service of the company for Europe is estimated by the potential of the service or product to help Europe with regard to the grand societal challenges such as the ageing of Europe, global warming, clean water, renewable energy and resource efficiency.
- High scientific content of the innovation  
The contestant must have been involved in the research and innovation activities connected to the origin of the product or service provided by the company she has founded or co-founded. Entries will be compared according to the number of patents/co-patents, scientific publications (or co-publications) and trademarks.

### **How to submit**

1. An Application must be submitted via the electronic submission system provided as a link on the website of the contest: [www.ec.europa.eu/women-innovators](http://www.ec.europa.eu/women-innovators). Applications reaching the Commission by any other means are regarded as 'not submitted', and will not be evaluated.

2. An Application must be complete and fully filled in conformity with the [Application guide](#). Applications which fail to do so will be rejected.

3. The deadline for submission of applications is **15 October 2013, at 17.00.00** (Brussels local time).

4. There is no fee to apply to the contest.

If you want to withdraw, please write to [rtd-women-innovators@ec.europa.eu](mailto:rtd-women-innovators@ec.europa.eu).

## **Evaluation procedure**

Before the evaluation starts, the application is subject to an eligibility check carried out by the Commission. An application which does not fulfil the eligibility criteria will not be retained for evaluation.

In a first step a committee of Commission staff will carry out a pre-screening of all eligible applications. Each application will be evaluated against the eligibility and award criteria outlined in the Work Programme<sup>1</sup>.

In a second step, a jury of high-level independent experts will perform the evaluation. They sign an appointment letter, including a declaration of confidentiality and absence of conflict of interest before starting their work. Confidentiality rules must be adhered to at all times, before, during and after the evaluation.

At this step the experts are acting individually; they do not discuss the proposal with each other, nor with any third party. Experts will assess and mark the applications exactly as they were submitted. They do not make any assumptions or interpretations in addition to what is in the application. The independent experts will provide the European Commission with a shortlist of the most promising contestants.

The European Commission will organise a consensus meeting to let the independent experts who act as a high-level jury to discuss the shortlisted applications.

For this purpose the Commission may decide to organise hearings with the shortlisted contestants. If hearings are planned, contestants will receive an invitation only if their applications are sufficiently high in the ranking. The letter of invitation will specify the date and time and particular arrangements to be made for such hearings.

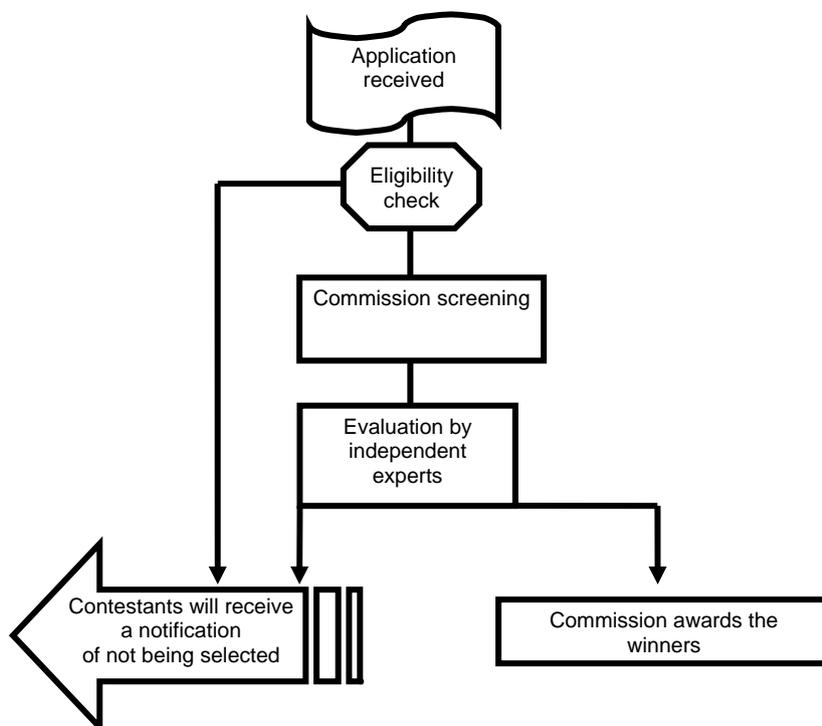
The consensus meeting is moderated by a representative of the Commission. The role of the moderator is to seek to arrive at a consensus between the individual views of experts without any prejudice for or against particular applications or the organisations involved, and to ensure a confidential, fair and equitable evaluation of each application according to the evaluation criteria.

The outcome of the consensus step is list of proposed winners, documented by the Consensus Report. The Commission reserves the right not to select a winner if no suitable entries are received or proposed by the jury.

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<sup>1</sup> See page 21-24 of the CDRP Work programme 2013,C(2012) 4526 of 09 July 2012, downloadable at <http://ec.europa.eu/research/participants/portal/download?docId=32953>

**The sequence of steps of the prize competition is summarised in this flow chart:**



### **Processing of personal data**

All personal data contained in the application shall be processed in accordance with Regulation (EC) No 45/2001 of the European Parliament and of the Council (OJ L8 of 12.01.2001, p1) on the protection of individuals with regard to the processing of personal data by the Community institutions and bodies and on the free movement of such data. Such data shall be processed by the Controller solely in connection with the implementation and follow-up of the application of the winner, without prejudice to a possible transmission to the bodies in charge of a monitoring or inspection task in accordance with European Community and European Union legislation.

Applicants may, on written request, gain access to their personal data and correct any information that is inaccurate or incomplete. They should address any questions regarding the processing of their personal data to the Controller, via the contact person: Mr Peter Dröll, Head of Unit RTD/C1 (European Commission, DG Research and Innovation, ORBN 07/95, 1049 Brussels, Belgium). Please send in addition a scanned copy of your letter by e-mail to [rtd-admin-innovators@ec.europa.eu](mailto:rtd-admin-innovators@ec.europa.eu). Applicants may, at any time, lodge a complaint against the processing of their personal data with the European Data Protection Supervisor.

The Commission shall be authorised to publish, in whatever form and on or by whatever medium, the following information:

- The name of the winners
- The general purpose of the activities of the company of the winner in relation to the award of the prize in the form of the summary provided by the winner;
- The amount of the prize awarded;
- The geographic location of the activities carried out.

The selected winners will be invited to the awarding ceremony in Brussels in March 2014. The European Commission may produce videos or other promotional material about the winners. Photos and videos taken by the Commission either in preparation of the award ceremony or during the award ceremony are the sole property of the Commission.

### **Conditions for participation**

The contest is governed by the applicable Union law complemented, where necessary, by the law of Belgium. The General Court or, on appeal, the Court of Justice of the European Union, shall have sole jurisdiction to hear any dispute between the Union and any participant concerning the interpretation, application or validity of the rules of this contest, if such dispute cannot be settled amicably.

The contestants accept that, if they are awarded a prize, the Commission, OLAF and the Court of Auditors may carry out checks and audits in relation to the contest and the received prize.

By virtue of Article 212 of Commission Delegated Regulation (EU) No 1268/2012 of 29 October 2012 on the rules of application of Regulation (EU, Euratom) No 966/2012 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 25 October 2012 on the financial rules applicable to the general budget of the Union and with due regard to the principle of proportionality, a participant which has committed irregularities or fraud, has made false declarations shall be liable to:

- (a) administrative penalties consisting of exclusion from all contracts, grants and contests financed by the Union budget for a maximum of five years from the date on which the infringement is established and confirmed following a contradictory procedure with the beneficiary; and/or
- (b) financial penalties of 2% to 10% of the value of the prize.

In the event of another infringement within five years following the establishment of the first infringement, the period of exclusion under point (a) may be extended to 10 years and the range of the rate referred to in point (b) may be increased to 4% to 20%."

### **General sources of help:**

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| The Prize Help desk                        | <a href="mailto:rtd-women-innovators@ec.europa.eu">rtd-women-innovators@ec.europa.eu</a><br><b>+32 229 75060</b>      |
| National Contact Points                    | <a href="http://cordis.europa.eu/fp7/ncp.htm">http://cordis.europa.eu/fp7/ncp.htm</a>                                 |
| National Contact Points in third countries | <a href="http://cordis.europa.eu/fp7/third-countries_en.html">http://cordis.europa.eu/fp7/third-countries_en.html</a> |