



EU PRIZE for

WOMEN INNOVATORS

2017



H2020 Programme

RULES OF CONTEST



1. OBJECTIVES PURSUED

Europe urgently needs more innovators to stay competitive in the coming decades and to spur economic growth. The large number of well-educated women who, for various reasons, including lack of awareness, do not consider entrepreneurship as an option, represents a tremendous untapped pool of innovation.

Awards have a strong potential to drive innovation through the recognition of achievements and the promotion of role models. Therefore, the European Commission created in 2011 a Prize for Women Innovators to increase public awareness of this issue and to encourage women to exploit the commercial and business opportunities and become entrepreneurs. After the success of the forerunners of the contest in 2011, 2014 and 2016, the Commission intends to continue its drive to spotlight women researchers who have brought outstanding innovations to the market. The Commission plans to award up to three "EU Prize for Women Innovators" and one "Rising Innovator Award" following a European-wide contest. The prizes are addressed to women who have founded or co-founded a company and who themselves or their company have benefitted from funding related to research and/or innovation. The prizes will not reward research or innovation proposed for the future, but only achievements that have been already obtained by the contestant.

2. EXPECTED RESULTS

Although women are more and more active in research, there are still too few women creating innovative enterprises. This represents an untapped potential for Europe which needs all resources to remain competitive and find solutions to our societal challenges. The prizes will boost the public awareness of the, potential, importance and contribution of women researchers to entrepreneurship and will encourage entrepreneurial women to become innovators. This will help to achieve the objectives of the Europe 2020 strategy.

3. PRIZE AMOUNT

The first prize is EUR 0.1 million, the second prize EUR 0,05 million, the third prize EUR 0,03 million and the 4th prize is EUR 0,02 million.

4. DEADLINES & ADMISSIBILITY

Table	
Opening of contest	13 September 2016
Deadline for submissions	03 November 2016

Applications must be submitted by the (lead) contestant via the Participant Portal 'Submission Service', accessible via the call page.

Applications must be readable, accessible and printable. Incomplete applications may be considered inadmissible if essential elements are missing (see General Annex B to the Main Work Programme).

The page-limit for this prize is: 15 pages

Sample application forms are available as reference documents on the [Participant Portal](#).

Please note however that special rules apply for Israeli entities¹ and for Crimean legal persons and that

¹ See Commission Guidelines on the eligibility of Israeli entities and their activities in the territories occupied by Israel since June 1967 for grants, prizes and financial instruments funded by the EU from 2014 onwards (OJ C 205 of 19.7.2013, pp. 9-11).

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entities from non-EU Member States that are covered by Council sanctions are not eligible to participate² (see General Annex C to the Main Work Programme).

Moreover, applicants that have already received an EU or Euratom prize cannot receive a second prize for the same activities.

5. ELIGIBILITY CRITERIA

Contestants for the "EU Prize for Women Innovators 2017" shall comply with the following eligibility criteria to participate:

1. The contestant must be a woman.

For Rising Innovator Award following applies: The contestant must be a woman born as of 1986.

2. The contestant must be an ordinary resident in an EU Member State or a country associated to Horizon 2020.
3. The contestant must be the founder or co-founder of an existing and active company which was registered before 1 January 2015.
4. The annual turnover of the company was at least EUR 0.10 million in 2014 or 2015.
5. Either the contestant as a natural person or the company founded/co-founded by the candidate have received or is receiving European or national funding for Research and Innovation or bank funding or alternative sources of financing such as private equity, venture capital, crowd funding through platforms or business angels.

5.1 EVIDENCE UPON REQUEST

Whenever requested by the contracting authority and where this is necessary to ensure the proper conduct of the procedure, the candidate or tenderer, as well as the entity on whose capacity the candidate or tenderer intends to rely, shall provide appropriate evidence that the contestant or a natural or legal person that assumes unlimited liability for the debts of the contestant; a natural person who is a member of the administrative, management or supervisory body of the contestant, or who has powers of representation, decision or control with regard to that contestant is not in one of the exclusion situations referred to in paragraph 9.11.

6. AWARD CRITERIA:

All eligible applications will be evaluated by a High level jury: The prize will be awarded, after closure of the contest, to the contestant(s) who in the opinion of the jury best addresses the following cumulative criteria :

1. The originality and marketability of the developed product or service provided by the company of the contestant. Applications will be compared according to the number of patents/co-patents and

² For the list of persons, groups and entities subject to EU financial sanctions, see http://eeas.europa.eu/cfsp/sanctions/consol-list_en.htm

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trademarks.

2. The economic impact - The economic impact of a product or service of the company for Europe is measured by the number of countries (inside and outside the EU) where the product or service is sold, and by the size of the turnover achieved with this service or product in 2014 and 2015.
3. The societal impact - the societal impact of a product or service of the company for Europe. It will be measured by the number of jobs created and the potential of the service or product to help Europe address a grand societal challenges e.g. the ageing of the European population, global warming, clean water, renewable energy and resource efficiency.
4. The impact and leadership role of the contestant. Contestants must explain how their role in the company influenced the success of the company and contestants should outline their potential to empower other women to be leaders and entrepreneurs.

7. DOCUMENTS:

The mandatory supporting documents are set out in the application form.

Contestants may be asked at a later stage for further documents (for legal entity validation, bank account validation, ethics review, declaration of honour on exclusion grounds, etc).

8. PROCEDURE:

Applications will be evaluated by an independent expert jury between November 2016 and March 2017, first individually (by each expert separately) and then as a group (by the whole jury together).

The jury will evaluate each application against the 4 award criteria and score them as follows.

Criterion	Maximum points
1. Originality and Marketability	5
2. Economic Impact	5
3. Societal Impact	5
4. Leadership role of the contestant	5
Total	20

The 12 best applications will be invited in January 2017 for a hearing with the high-level Jury.

On the basis of the evaluation, the Commission will decide on the award of the prize.

All contestants will be informed in spring 2017 about the outcome of the contest.

9. OTHER CONDITIONS:

9.1 APPLICABLE LAW AND COMPETENT JURISDICTION

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. For participants that are International organisations such disputes with the [Commission][Agency] relating to the Contest must - if they cannot be settled amicably - be referred to arbitration.

The Permanent Court of Arbitration Optional Rules for Arbitration Involving International Organisations and States in force at the date of entry into force of the Contest will apply.

9.2 PAYMENT ARRANGEMENTS

The prize money will be paid in one instalment after the award ceremony by bank transfer, provided all the requested documents have been submitted.

9.3 PUBLICITY — PROMOTING THE PRIZE — VISIBILITY OF EU FUNDING

9.3.1 PUBLICITY BY THE WINNER(S)

The winner(s) must promote the award, by providing targeted information to multiple audiences (including the media and the public) in a strategic and effective manner.

Unless the Commission requests or agrees otherwise or unless it is impossible, any communication activity related to the action (including in electronic form, via social media, etc.) must:

- (a) display the EU emblem and
- (b) include the following text:

“has been awarded the EU Prize for Women Innovators from the European Union’s Horizon 2020 research and innovation programme”.

When displayed together with another logo, the EU emblem must have appropriate prominence.

For the purposes of its obligations, the winner(s) may use the EU emblem without first obtaining approval from the Commission.

This does not, however, give it the right to exclusive use.

Moreover, the winner(s) may not appropriate the EU emblem or any similar trademark or logo, either by registration or by any other means.

9.3.2 PUBLICITY BY THE [AGENCY OR THE] COMMISSION

The Commission may use, for its communication and publicising activities, information relating to the action, documents notably summaries for publication and deliverables as well as any other material, such as pictures or audio-visual material that it receives from the winner(s) (including in electronic form).

The Commission will publish the name of the winner(s), their origin, the amount of the prize and its nature and purpose— unless the winner has requested to waive this publication (because disclosure risks threatening its security and safety or harm its commercial interest).

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.

9.4 DISSEMINATION AND EXPLOITATION OF RESULTS

The winner(s) must comply with the obligations set out in Title III of the Rules for Participation Regulation No 1290/2013³.

9.5 PROCESSING OF PERSONAL DATA

9.5.1 PROCESSING OF PERSONAL DATA BY THE [COMMISSION][AGENCY]

Any personal data will be processed by the Commission under Regulation No 45/2001⁴ and according to the 'notifications of the processing operations' to the Data Protection Officer (DPO) of the Commission (publicly accessible in the DPO register).

Such data will be processed by the '**data controller**' of the/ Commission for the purposes of the award, implementation and follow-up of the prize or protecting the financial interests of the EU or Euratom (including checks, audits and investigations; see below).

The persons whose personal data are processed have the right to access and correct their own personal data. For this purpose, they must send any queries about the processing of their personal data to the data controller, via the contact point indicated in the 'service specific privacy statement(s) (SSPS)' that are published on the/ Commission websites.

They also have the right to have recourse at any time to the European Data Protection Supervisor (EDPS). The winner(s) consent that the Commission publishes (in whatever form and medium) the following information:

- (a) name
- (b) Member State of origin (address or NUTS 2 region)
- (c) their activities in relation to the award of the prize (via the summary for publication they provided)
- (d) prize amount.

³ Regulation (EU) No 1290/2013 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 11 December 2013 laying down the rules for participation and dissemination in "Horizon 2020 - the Framework Programme for Research and Innovation (2014-2020)" (OJ L 347, 20.12.2013 p.81).

⁴ Regulation (EC) No 45/2001 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 18 December 2000 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 (OJ L 8, 12.01.2001, p. 1).

9.5.2. PROCESSING OF PERSONAL DATA BY THE CONTESTANTS

The contestants must process personal data in compliance with applicable EU and national law on data protection (including authorisations or notification requirements).

The contestants may grant their personnel access only to data that is strictly necessary for the award, implementation or follow-up of the prize.

The contestants must inform the personnel whose personal data are collected and processed by the or the Commission. For this purpose, they must provide them with the service specific privacy statement(s) (SSPS) (see above), before transmitting their data to the [Agency or the] Commission.

9.6 ETHICS

The activities must be carried out in compliance with:

- (a) ethical principles (including the highest standards of research integrity — as set out, for instance, in the European Code of Conduct for Research Integrity⁵ — and including, in particular, avoiding fabrication, falsification, plagiarism or other research misconduct) and
- (b) applicable international, EU and national law.

No prize will be awarded for activities carried out outside the EU, if they are prohibited in all Member States.

The contestants must ensure that the activities have an exclusive focus on civil applications.

The contestants must ensure that the activities do not:

- aim at human cloning for reproductive purposes
- intend to modify the genetic heritage of human beings which could make such changes heritable (with the exception of research relating to cancer treatment of the gonads) or
- intend to create human embryos solely for the purpose of research or for the purpose of stem cell procurement, including by means of somatic cell nuclear transfer.

Research activities involving human embryonic stem cells (hESC) are moreover subject to the conditions set out in the [Statement of the Commission related to research activities involving human embryonic stem cells](#).

For more information and best practice, see the [Online Manual](#), the sample application form for prizes and the guidance '[How to complete your ethics self assessment](#)'.

9.7 CONFLICT OF INTERESTS

The contestants must take all measures to prevent any situation where the impartial and objective award of the prize is compromised for reasons involving economic interest, political or national affinity, family or emotional ties or any other shared interest ('**conflict of interests**').

⁵ The European Code of Conduct for Research Integrity of ALLEA (All European Academies) and ESF (European Science Foundation) of March 2011.
http://www.esf.org/fileadmin/Public_documents/Publications/Code_Conduct_ResearchIntegrity.pdf

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They must inform the Commission without delay of any situation constituting or likely to lead to a conflict of interests and immediately take all the necessary steps to rectify this situation.

The Commission may verify that the measures taken are appropriate and may require additional measures to be taken by a specified deadline.

9.8 LIABILITY FOR DAMAGES

The Commission cannot be held liable for any damage caused to the contestants or to third parties as a consequence of the award or implementation of the prize, including for gross negligence.

The Commission cannot be held liable for any damage caused by any of the contestants, as a consequence of activities linked to the prize.

9.9 CHECKS, AUDITS AND INVESTIGATIONS

The Commission, the European Anti-Fraud Office (OLAF) and the Court of Auditors may carry out checks, audits and investigations in relation to the prize.

9.10 WITHDRAWAL OF THE PRIZE — RECOVERY OF UNDUE AMOUNTS

The Commission may withdraw the prize and recover all payments made, if it finds out that:

- (a) false information or fraud or corruption was used to obtain the prize or
- (b) the winner was not eligible or should have been excluded.

9.11 EXCLUSION AND FINANCIAL PENALTIES

If a contestant is in one of the exclusion situations referred to in paragraph 4.2, the Commission may also impose:

- decisions excluding the contestants from all contracts, grants and contests financed from the EU or Euratom budget for duration not exceeding the duration, if any, set by the final judgement or the final administrative decision of a Member State and either five years for the cases referred to in paragraph 4.2 (d) or three years for the cases referred to in paragraph 4.2 (c), (e) and (f).and/or
- a financial penalty between 2% and 10% of the value of the prize on a contestant in one of the cases referred to in paragraph 4.2 (c), (d), (e) and (f).
- Contestants will be excluded if they (or for points (a)(b) a natural or legal person that assumes unlimited liability for the debts of the contestant; or for points (c)(d)(e)(f) a natural person who is a member of the administrative, management or supervisory body of the contestant, or who has

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powers of representation, decision or control with regard to that contestant)⁶:

- a) it is bankrupt, subject to insolvency or winding up procedures, its assets are being administered by a liquidator or by a court, it is in an arrangement with creditors, its business activities are suspended or it is in any analogous situation arising from a similar procedure provided for under national legislation or regulations;
- b) it has been established by a final judgement or a final administrative decision that the applicant is in breach of its obligations relating to the payment of taxes or social security contributions in accordance with the law of the country in which it is established, with those of the country in which the authorising officer is located or those of the country of the performance of the contract;
- c) it has been established by a final judgement or a final administrative decision that the applicant is guilty of grave professional misconduct by having violated applicable laws or regulations or ethical standards of the profession to which the applicant belongs, or by having engaged in any wrongful conduct which has an impact on its professional credibility where such conduct denotes wrongful intent or gross negligence, including, in particular, any of the following:
 - (i) fraudulently or negligently misrepresenting information required for the verification of the absence of grounds for exclusion or the fulfilment of selection criteria or in the performance of a contract, a grant agreement or a grant decision;
 - (ii) entering into agreement with other persons with the aim of distorting competition;
 - (iii) violating intellectual property rights;
 - (iv) attempting to influence the decision-making process of the [Commission] [Agency] during the award procedure;
 - (v) attempting to obtain confidential information that may confer upon it undue advantages in the award procedure;
- d) it has been established by a final judgement that the applicant is guilty of any of the following
 - (i) fraud, within the meaning of Article 1 of the Convention on the protection of the European Communities' financial interests, drawn up by the Council Act of 26 July 1995;
 - (ii) corruption, as defined in Article 3 of the Convention on the fight against corruption involving officials of the European Communities or officials of EU Member States, drawn up by the Council Act of 26 May 1997, and in Article 2(1) of Council Framework Decision 2003/568/JHA, as well as corruption as defined in the legal provisions of the country where the authorising officer is located, the country in which the applicant is established or the country of the performance of the contract;
 - (iii) participation in a criminal organisation, as defined in Article 2 of Council Framework Decision 2008/841/JHA;
 - (iv) money laundering or terrorist financing, as defined in Article 1 of Directive 2005/60/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council;
 - (v) terrorist-related offences or offences linked to terrorist activities, as defined in Articles 1 and 3 of Council Framework Decision 2002/475/JHA, respectively, or inciting, aiding, abetting or attempting to commit such offences, as referred to in Article 4 of that Decision;
 - (vi) child labour or other forms of trafficking in human beings as defined in Article 2 of Directive 2011/36/EU of the European Parliament and of the Council;

⁶ Article 105a, paragraphs 1 to 4, 6 and 7, except point (b) of the first subparagraph and the second subparagraph of that paragraph, paragraphs 8, 9, 11 and 13 to 17 of Article 106 and Article 108 of the 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 repealing Council Regulation (EC, Euratom) No 1605/2002 (OJ L 218, 26.10.2012, p.1) shall apply to participants and winners. Article 107 shall apply to participants

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- e) it has shown significant deficiencies in complying with the main obligations in the performance of a contract, a grant agreement or a grant decision financed by the Union's budget, which has led to its early termination or to the application of liquidated damages or other contractual penalties, or which has been discovered following checks, audits or investigations by an Authorising Officer, OLAF or the Court of Auditors;
- f) it has been established by a final judgment or final administrative decision that the applicant has committed an irregularity within the meaning of Article 1(2) of Council Regulation (EC, Euratom) No 2988/95;
- g) for the situations of grave professional misconduct, fraud, corruption, other criminal offences, significant deficiencies in the performance of the contract or irregularity, the applicant is subject to:
 - i. facts established in the context of audits or investigations carried out by the Court of Auditors, OLAF or internal audit, or any other check, audit or control performed under the responsibility of an authorising officer of an EU institution, of a European office or of an EU agency or body;
 - ii. non-final administrative decisions which may include disciplinary measures taken by the competent supervisory body responsible for the verification of the application of standards of professional ethics;
 - iii. decisions of the ECB, the EIB, the European Investment Fund or international organisations;
 - iv. decisions of the Commission relating to the infringement of the Union's competition rules or of a national competent authority relating to the infringement of Union or national competition law.
 - v. decisions of exclusion by an authorising officer of an EU institution, of a European office or of an EU agency or body.
 - Contestants will also be excluded if they misrepresent the information required as a condition for participating in the procedure or fail to supply that information.
 - However contestants will not be excluded where:
 - (a) they have taken remedial measures⁷, thus demonstrating their reliability. This point shall not apply in the case referred to in point (d) above;
 - (b) such an exclusion would be disproportionate⁸.

⁷ The measures which remedy the exclusion situation may include, in particular: measures to identify the origin of the situations giving rise to exclusion and concrete technical, organisational and personnel measures within the relevant business area of the economic operator, appropriate to correct the conduct and prevent its further occurrence; proof that the economic operator has undertaken measures to compensate or redress the damage or harm caused to the Union's financial interests by the underlying facts giving rise to the exclusion situation; proof that the economic operator has paid or secured the payment of any fine imposed by the competent authority or of any taxes or social security contributions

⁸ In particular taking into account the seriousness of the situation, including the impact on the Union's financial interests and image, the time which has elapsed since the relevant conduct, its duration and its recurrence, the intention or degree of negligence, the limited amount at stake for point (b) above or any other mitigating circumstances, such as the degree of collaboration of the economic operator with the relevant competent authority and its contribution to the investigation as recognised by the contracting authority, or the disclosure of the exclusion situation by means of the declaration

9.12 CANCELLATION OF THE CONTEST

The Commission may cancel the contest or decide not to award a prize — without any obligation to indemnify contestants —, if:

- the objective of the contest has already been achieved
- no applications are received
- the jury does not find a winner or
- the winner is not eligible or must be excluded.

CONTACT:

For more information, please see the prize website.

In case of questions, please contact the [Horizon 2020 Helpdesk](#) or contact us via email to rtd-women-innovators@ec.europa.eu