EU Contest for Young Scientists (EUCYS)

The Jury and the evaluation process
Composition of the Jury

The Jury is composed of 18-20 members of international reputation, who carry out their duties as individuals and not as representatives of an institution or country. Members of the Jury are selected on the basis of scientific criteria; they are drawn from both academia and industry. They are appointed by the Commission, which ensures an appropriate geographical and gender balance. Up to one third of the Members of the Jury are replaced each year.

Evaluation criteria

The criteria used to assess projects are as follows:

- originality and creativity in the identification of and the approach to the basic problem
- skill, care and thoroughness in designing and carrying out the study
- following through of the study from conception to conclusion
- reasoning and clarity in the interpretation of the results
- quality of written presentation and ability to discuss the project with the Jury Members

Evaluation process

1. Each Jury member awards each project a preliminary mark in the following categories:

   - Worthy of a prize – A
   - Maybe worthy of a prize – B
   - Not worthy of a prize – C

2. At the beginning of the EU Contest, the President will contact each of the other Members of the Jury, who notify the President of the preliminary marks they have awarded to each project. The President draws up a preliminary assessment list.

3. During the EU Contest, the Members of the Jury have a first meeting to review the preliminary assessment list marks. The Jury ensures that each project exhibit is visited by at least by 5 members of the Jury for interviews. Detailed discussions with all the contestants involved takes place over three days.

4. Based on the results of these interviews, the Jury may amend the preliminary assessment list. The Jury shall award the core prizes and decide whether any Honorary and/or Special Donated Prizes should be awarded. The Jury reaches its decisions based on consensus.

5. The list of prize winners, the recipients of the Honorary and Special Donated Prizes (if any) are drawn up and signed by the President on behalf of the Jury. The Jury secretary makes arrangements for the official announcement and for the Award Ceremony to take place.

The President of the Jury gives an overview of the Contest at the Award Ceremony. The President of the Jury may at any time inform the Commission where, in the opinion of the
Jury, any of the following is apparent: (i) contestants are estimated to have received undue assistance from experts; (ii) contestants have had undue privileged access to resources; or (iii) the contestants have clearly plagiarized ideas from others. In such a case, the Commission will withdraw the project from the competition and even after the event retain the right to demand if necessary, the return of any prize monies.

The decision of the Jury is final.