



European
Commission



RES
PONSIBLE
ISLAND
prize



Images: © auspicious #215373239, © Nettle #15315025, © Alvarado #130552780, © archviz #122821928, 2019. Source: AdobeStock.com

RULES OF THE CONTEST

RESponsible Island Prize 2020

Version 2.0
28 April 2020



History of changes

Version	Date	Change
1.0	19.03.2020	▪ Original version from the launch of the prize
2.0	28.04.2020	▪ Minor changes were introduced in the document for the second deadline.

1. THEME: RESPONSIBLE ISLAND 2020 - PRIZE FOR A RENEWABLE GEOGRAPHIC ENERGY ISLAND

1.1 Objectives pursued

The objectives of the prize are:

- The prize intends to highlight the potential of renewables for decentralized energy grids by addressing energy needs for electricity, heating, cooling and transport. The title is inspired by RES (short for Renewables) and "responsible" to highlight the citizen in the centre of the energy system. Within this context, the prize recognizes realised achievements in renewables on geographic energy islands.
- Geographic energy islands are ideal test labs for the deployment of innovative energy technologies. The prize will reward integrated local RES production in a decentralized electricity grid and the achievements in decarbonizing heating, cooling and transport. In this context, renewable energy consumed on the island is also linked to the renewable energy produced on the island, supporting its local value chains and self-engaging the local society as a RESponsible prosumer.
- The prize is in line with the objectives of the Political Declaration on Clean Energy on EU Islands and the Smart Islands Initiative and will contribute to Mission Innovation Challenge 2 ("Off Grid Access to Electricity Innovation Challenge")¹.

1.2 Expected results

The prize will highlight realised achievements/best practices in reaching the potential of renewable energy for covering electricity, heating, cooling and transport needs in off-grid societies, and in the introduction of innovative technologies to the market. It will be a recognition of a responsible local society committed to expanding the share of renewables. It will also provide excellent visibility for citizens participating in the promotion of innovative renewable energy technologies. The recognised solutions are expected to have high replicability also to other isolated energy systems with islands characteristics worldwide in the context of Mission Innovation Challenge 2 by show-casing working business models.

While the 2019 edition of the prize gave an important weighting to the achieved overall share of renewable energy (criterion 1a), the 2020 edition gives more relative weight to the replicability of the solution (criterion 4).

2. PRIZE AMOUNT(S): Prize for the winner (1st place) EUR 0.5 million. For the 2nd place EUR 0.25 million, for the 3rd place EUR 0.1 million.

3. DEADLINES & ADMISSIBILITY

Deadlines	
Opening of the submission:	28 April 2020
Closing date for submission:	29 September 2020 at 17:00:00 CET ²

Joint applications by a group of participants are admitted. In this case, the participants must appoint a 'lead participant' to represent them towards the Commission. The participants will be jointly responsible and must all fulfil and respect the conditions set out in these Rules of Contest.

¹ <http://mission-innovation.net/our-work/innovation-challenges/off-grid-access-challenge>

² Central European Time = Brussels local time.

Applications must be submitted by the (lead) participant via the [Funding & Tenders Portal Submission Service](#).

Applications must be readable, accessible and printable. Incomplete applications may be considered inadmissible if essential elements, including a representation agreement are missing (see section 4.1, [General Annex B to the Main Work Programme](#)).

The page-limit for your prize application (Part B) is: 100 pages. The representation agreement (see 4.1) is foreseen to be uploaded as a separate annex to the application form and will not count towards the page-limit.

Participants must be able to provide proof of eligibility (see 4.1 Eligibility Criteria)³.

4. ELIGIBILITY

4.1 Eligibility criteria

The island shall be located within the territory of an EU Member State (including Overseas Countries and Territories linked to them) or an H2020 associated country and the prize is open to any legal entity or group of legal entities representing the respective island. Representation has to be proven through written representation agreement signed by the respective authorities responsible for the whole island.⁴ Participating islands must have permanent residents and an energy demand in electricity, heating and/or cooling as well as transport of at least 100 MWh/year overall.

Please note however that special rules may apply for entities from certain countries and that an application will only be considered eligible if its content corresponds, wholly or in part, to the contest description for which it is submitted (see [General Annex C to the Main Work Programme](#)).

Please also be aware that participants that have already received an EU or Euratom prize cannot receive a second prize for the same activities.

4.2 Exclusion criteria

Participants will be excluded if they (or one of them):

- a) are subject to an administrative sanction (i.e. exclusion or financial penalty decision)⁵
- b) are in one of the following situations⁶:
 - bankrupt, being wound up, having their affairs administered by the courts, entered into an arrangement with creditors, suspended business activities or subject to any other similar proceedings or procedures (including procedures for persons with unlimited liability for the participant's debts)
 - in breach of social security or tax obligations (including if done by persons with unlimited liability for the participant's debts)

³ Participants may be asked at a later stage to provide documents to support the eligibility declaration in Part A of the proposal, in accordance with section 6.

⁴ Depending on the size of the island the respective authorities may be local, regional or even state authorities-responsible for the whole territory of the island. Agreement of authorities responsible for part of the territory of the island will not be sufficient.

⁵ See Articles 136(1) of Regulation (EU, Euratom) 2018/1046 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 18 July 2018 on the financial rules applicable to the general budget of the Union, amending Regulations (EU) No 1296/2013, (EU) No 1301/2013, (EU) No 1303/2013, (EU) No 1304/2013, (EU) No 1309/2013, (EU) No 1316/2013, (EU) No 223/2014, (EU) No 283/2014, and Decision No 541/2014/EU and repealing Regulation (EU, Euratom) No 966/2012 ([“EU Financial Regulation”](#)) (OJ L 193, 30.7.2018, p. 1

⁶ See Articles 136(1) and 141(1) [EU Financial Regulation](#)

- guilty of grave professional misconduct⁷ (including if done by persons having powers of representation, decision-making or control, beneficial owners or persons who are essential for the award of the prize)
 - committed fraud, corruption, links to a criminal organisation, money laundering, terrorism-related crimes (including if done by terrorism financing), child labour or human trafficking (including persons having powers of representation, decision-making or control, beneficial owners or persons who are essential for the award of the prize)
 - shown significant deficiencies in complying with main obligations under an EU procurement contract, grant agreement or grant decision (including if done by persons having powers of representation, decision-making or control, beneficial owners or persons who are essential for the award of the prize)
 - guilty of irregularities within the meaning of Article 1(2) of Regulation No 2988/95 (including if done by persons having powers of representation, decision-making or control, beneficial owners or persons who are essential for the award of the prize)
 - created under a different jurisdiction with the intent to circumvent fiscal, social or other legal obligations in the country of origin or created another entity with this purpose (including if done by persons having powers of representation, decision-making or control, beneficial owners or persons who are essential for the award of the prize).
- c) have misrepresented information required for participating in the contest or fail to submit such information⁸
- d) were involved in the preparation of the prize documents and this entails a distortion of competition⁹.

5. AWARD CRITERIA

The prize will be awarded to the entry that best addresses the following cumulative criteria:

1. The share of renewable energy produced by innovative energy technologies on the island respective to the energy consumed on the island for electricity, heating and/or cooling and transport (maximum 40 points)

The following sub-criteria will be qualitatively evaluated:

- a) The achieved overall share of renewable energy produced on the island (above 30%) in relation to the overall energy consumed on the island, whereby energy imported or exported (e.g. via grid connection to mainland, biofuel import) is excluded (maximum 10 points);
- b) For the electricity generation and distribution: the achieved renewable electricity share (above 50%, share given by import/export via grid connection to mainland is excluded), off-grid electricity system stability and quality, including power quality, security and resilience (maximum 5 points);
- c) For the heating and cooling needs: the achieved renewable share in heating and cooling from renewable energy produced on the island and occurrence of public buildings with 100% renewable heating and cooling (maximum 5 points);
- d) For the transport fuel needs: The share of renewable energy in local transport on the island and in local navigation and the overall amount of renewable energy used in the local transport respectively (maximum 5 points);

⁷ Professional misconduct includes: violation of ethical standards of the profession, wrongful conduct with impact on professional credibility, false declarations/misrepresentation of information, participation in a cartel or other agreement distorting competition, violation of IPR, attempting to influence decision-making processes or obtain confidential information from public authorities to gain an advantage.

⁸ See Article 141(1) [EU Financial Regulation](#).

⁹ See Article 141(1) [EU Financial Regulation](#).

- e) Innovative character of the used energy technologies of the renewable energy generation and off-grid energy system (maximum 15 points).

2. Environmental and socioeconomic sustainability and impact of the renewable energy solution (maximum 20 points)

The overall environmental and socio-economic sustainability and impact of the renewable energy solution must be qualitatively presented and will be judged upon:

- For the economic dimension the energy system costs, the contribution of private investments, the local economic impacts and the impact of the renewable energy system on the touristic attractiveness of the island;
- For the social dimension the number of jobs created, the citizen ownership of renewable energy production (prosumer) and the creation of local supply chain for renewable energy on the island;
- For the environmental dimension the impact of land use, the impact on natural habitats and of non-GHG emissions, the minimal impact being the better. In addition, the impact of the reduction of GHG emission per capita through the use of RES will be assessed.

3. Citizen and community involvement (maximum 20 points)

Within this criterion the occurring citizen support and common ownership to the presented RESponsible island concept and community involvement will be qualitatively judged based upon proven citizen involvement and engagement in e.g. events, social media, common RES projects.

4. Replicability of the solution (maximum 20 points)

Within this criterion the replicability of the presented solution for other off-grid geographic and energy islands as well as for other off-grid communities will be qualitatively judged with respect to suitability, adaptability, cost-effectiveness, innovativeness and robustness of the renewable energy system for electricity, heating, cooling and transport.

6. DOCUMENTS

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

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

7. PROCEDURE

If there are more than 20 of applications, there will be a pre-selection phase to select the best 20 applications to pass to jury review. Otherwise, all applications will pass directly to jury review.

The pre-selection panel and jury usually have a different composition, but jury members may participate in the pre-selection panel.

The jury evaluation is planned to take place between October 2020 and March 2021.

The pre-selection panel/jury will evaluate each application against the 4 award criteria and score them as follows (half marks are possible decimals are not):

Criterion	Threshold	Maximum points
1. The share of renewable energy produced by innovative energy technologies on the island respective to the energy consumed on the island for electricity, heating and/or cooling and transport	28	40

2. Environmental and socioeconomic sustainability and impact of the renewable energy solution	10	20
3. Citizen and community involvement	10	20
4. Replicability of the solution	10	20
Total	60	100

For applications with the same score, the pre-selection panel/jury will determine a priority order according to the following approach: The score for the criterion No 1 will be given a weight of 2 and the score for criterion No 3 will be given a weight of 1.5. If two or more applications tie for the same rank, the price for the given place will be equally divided and awarded to all.

On the basis of the evaluation by the jury (and after the mandatory checks: ethics review, security scrutiny, legal entity validation, non-exclusion, double funding and plagiarism, etc.), the Commission will decide on the award of the prize.

All participants will be informed at the end of the first quarter/beginning of second quarter of 2021 on the outcome of their application.

8. OTHER CONDITIONS

8.1 Payment arrangements

The prize money to the RESponsible Island Winner, 2nd and 3rd place (EUR 0.5 million for the 1st place, EUR 0.25 million for the 2nd place, EUR 0.1 million for the 3rd place) referred hereafter as the winner(s) will be paid to the respective (lead) participant in one instalment after award decision or alternatively after the award ceremony, if it is decided by the European Commission that such a ceremony shall take place, by bank transfer, provided all the requested documents have been submitted.

8.2 Publicity – Promoting the prize – Visibility of EU funding

8.2.1 Publicity by the winner(s)

The winner(s) must promote the prize and its results, 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:

“This action/activity/person was winner, 2nd or 3rd place of the RESponsible Island – Prize for a renewable geographic energy island 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 their 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, they may not appropriate the EU emblem or any similar trademark or logo, either by registration or by any other means.

8.2.2 Publicity by the Commission

The Commission may use, for its communication and publicising activities, information relating to the action, documents notably summaries for publication as well as any other material, such as pictures or audio-visual material that it receives from the participants (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 they have 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.

8.3 Dissemination and exploitation of results

The winner(s) must comply with the obligations set out in Title III of the Horizon 2020 Rules for Participation Regulation No 1290/2013¹⁰.

For more information and best practice, see Articles 23a-31 of the [H2020 AGA — Annotated grant agreement](#).

8.4 Processing of personal data

8.4.1 Processing of personal data by the Commission

Any personal data will be processed by the Commission under Regulation No 2018/1725¹¹ and in accordance with the Data Protection Notice published on the [Funding and Tenders Portal](#).

8.4.2. Processing of personal data by the participants

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

8.5 Ethics

The activities must be carried out in compliance with:

- (a) ethical principles (including the highest standards of research integrity) 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 participants must ensure that the activities have an exclusive focus on civil applications.

The participants must ensure that the activities do not:

- (a) aim at human cloning for reproductive purposes
- (b) 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
- (c) intend to create human embryos solely for the purpose of research or for the purpose of stem cell

¹⁰ 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).

¹¹ Regulation (EU) No 2018/1725 of 23 October 2018 on the protection of natural persons with regard to the processing of personal data by the Union institutions, bodies, offices and agencies and on the free movement of such data, and repealing Regulation (EC) No 45/2001 and Decision No 1247/2002/EC (OJ L 295 21.11.2018, p.39).

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](#).

The participants must respect the highest standards of research integrity — as set out, for instance, in the European Code of Conduct for Research Integrity¹².

For more information and best practice, see the [Funding & Tenders Portal Online Manual](#), the [Guidance — How to complete your ethics self-assessment](#) and the [Guidance note — Research focusing exclusively on civil applications](#).

8.6 Security

The activities must be carried out in compliance with Commission Decision [2015/444](#), i.e. security-sensitive information must be **EU-classified**, if its unauthorised disclosure could adversely impact the interests of the EU or of one (or more) of its Member States. Applications that are too security-sensitive cannot be awarded a prize.

For more information and best practice, see the [Guidance — Guidelines for the classification of information in research projects](#), the [Guidance note — Potential misuse of research results](#) and the [Guidance note — Research involving dual use items](#).

8.7 Conflict of interests

The participants 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').

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.

8.8 Liability for damages

The Commission cannot be held liable for any damage.

8.9 Checks, audits and investigations

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

8.10 Withdrawal of the prize — Recovery of undue amounts

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

- (a) false information, fraud or corruption was used to obtain it
- (b) a winner was not eligible or should have been excluded
- (c) a winner is in serious breach of its obligations under these Rules of Contest.

8.11 Administrative sanctions

If a participant is in one of the situations specified in section 4.2, the Commission may also impose

¹² European Code of Conduct for Research Integrity of ALLEA (All European Academies) and ESF (European Science Foundation) of March 2017 http://ec.europa.eu/research/participants/data/ref/h2020/other/hi/h2020-ethics_code-of-conduct_en.pdf.

administrative sanctions (i.e. exclude it from future EU contracts, grants and prizes and/or impose a financial penalty)¹³

8.12 Cancellation of the contest

The Commission may cancel the contest or decide not to award the prize — without any obligation to compensate participants —, if:

- (a) no applications are received
- (b) the jury does not find a winner/runner-up
- (c) the winner/runner-up is not eligible or must be excluded or
- (d) the objective of the contest has already been achieved.

8.13 Complaints

Complaints against decisions negatively affecting the rights of a participant or winner can be brought before the General Court — or, on appeal, the Court of Justice of the European Union — under Article 263 of the Treaty on the Functioning of the EU (TFEU).

9. CONTACT

For more information, please see the [prize website](#).

In case of questions, please contact the [Research Enquiry Service](#) or contact us via email to EC-RESponsible-Island-Prize@ec.europa.eu.

¹³ See Articles 136(1) and 138 [EU Financial Regulation](#).

