

START-UP CHALLENGE 2022 – COMPETITION TERMS AND CONDITIONS

Article 1

General provisions

1. These Terms and Conditions set out the terms of conditions for participation in the START-UP CHALLENGE 2022 Competition, hereinafter referred to as the Competition.
2. The main objective of the Competition is to popularise in Poland the idea of entrepreneurship as well as business-oriented and creative thinking focused on creation and development of innovative technologies.
3. The specific objectives include:
 - a) selecting the most innovative Polish start-ups,
 - b) popularising the most interesting business ideas in Poland,
 - c) connecting start-ups with investors and industry corporations.
4. The Competition, furtherly called Event (main website: <http://www.estartupdays.eu>), accompanies the European Economic Congress 2022, which takes place 25-27th April 2022 in Katowice (Congress' website: [www: eecpoland.eu](http://www.eecpoland.eu)).
5. Information about the competition and application questionnaire are available on the website (<http://www.estartupdays.eu>), in the "APPLICATION" tab, which is furtherly called the competition's page.
6. The Competition is organised by the PTWP SA Group seated in Katowice, hereinafter referred to as the Organiser.
7. Participation in the Competition is free of charge.
8. The Competition is intended for start-up owners, hereinafter referred to as Participants.
9. A Start-up shall be understood as:
 - a) a natural person or a group of natural persons with an idea for an innovative undertaking
 - b) an innovative enterprise at the early stage of its development – created to look for a repeatable, scalable and profitable business model – that meets one of the two following criteria at the moment of signing up to the project:
 - it does not conduct business activity in any market,
 - it has conducted business activity in any market for less than five (5) years since the first commercial sale of its product(s).
10. Innovation shall be understood as 'implementation of a new or significantly enhanced product (or service), process, new marketing method or new organisational method in economic practice, workplace organisation or relations with the surroundings' / the Oslo Manual.
11. The correct course of the Competition shall be ensured by the Team of Experts and the Jury.
12. The Organiser, the Team of Experts and members of the Jury hereby undertake to keep secret and not disclose any Information concerning the projects submitted by the creators, as described in the application for the Competition, as well as to protect and safeguard such Information against unauthorised access. Access to the Information of this type shall only be granted to duly authorised persons.
13. The Organiser, the members of the Team of Experts and the Jurors hereby undertake to keep the details of their assessments confidential and not to disclose them to any third party, except for persons duly authorised by the Organiser – for organisational purposes.

14. The Team of Experts shall be composed of representatives of the Organiser and of the Substantive Partners. The main task of the Team of Experts shall be to assess the applications for the Competition as regards their formal and substantive content.
15. The Jury shall assess the speeches delivered by the Semi-Finalists during the Event, thus selecting the Finalists of the Competition. The Jury shall be composed of both permanent and rotating members, the latter being representatives of start-up industry groups (the Competition Categories – Article 3, paragraph 1(c) herein), who shall carry out the assessment and, in connection therewith, shall change along with the change of the Competition Category being assessed at a given time.
16. The Competition shall be carried out in the territory of the Republic of Poland. The Participants of the Competition can be entities registered or operating both in Poland and abroad.

Article 2

Rules of the Competition

1. The assessment and selection of applications shall be based on four stages:
 - a) The 1st stage of the Competition – Recruitment, preliminary diagnosis and screening of projects

The Participants apply for the Competition by filling in the application form (completing the boxes of the application form) available on the Competition website; for further information, refer to the ‘Instructions on how to fill in the application form’ available on the Competition website; the formal assessment includes the criterion of meeting formal requirements and shall be carried out in accordance with the Formal Assessment Form.
 - b) The 2nd stage of the Competition – Substantive Assessment and Verification, Ranking, and Selection of Quarter-Finalists and Semi-Finalists

For further information on the substantive assessment, refer to Article 5 and the Substantive Assessment Form available on the Competition website; the substantive assessment shall be carried out on the basis of score-based criteria; as a result of the assessment, a ranking list shall be created, based on which the projects with the highest scores shall proceed to the next stage.
 - c) The 3rd stage of the Competition – Presentations and assessment of speeches delivered by the Semi-Finalists

Presentations of the Semi-Finalists (lasting a maximum of five (5) minutes each), followed by: answers to the questions asked, assessment by the Jury during the Event, and selection of the Finalists.
 - d) The 4th stage of the Competition – Presenting the Finalists with the awards during the Start-up Challenge Awards Gala.
2. **Important dates for the Competition:**
 - a) 10 January 2022 – 17 February 2022 (until midnight): the period of receiving applications for the Competition, submitted by way of completing the application form available on the www.estartupdays.eu website,

- b) 1-13 March 2022: formal and substantive evaluation of entries, naming the quarter-finalists (100), publishing the results of the substantive evaluation on the website of the event,
 - c) 14-15 March 2022: notifying the quarter-finalists of winning via e-mail/phone call and through the www.estartupdays.eu website, confirming their participation in the event,
 - d) 16-29 March 2022: substantive evaluation of entries, naming the semi-finalists in each category (5x3 = 15), publishing the results of the substantive evaluation on the website of the event,
 - e) 30-31 March 2022: notifying the semi-finalists of winning via e-mail/phone call and through the www.eecpoland.eu website, confirming their participation in the event,
 - f) 26 April 2022: presenting the semi-finalists, the naming of the finalists and a Start-up Challenge Award Gala
3. Semi-Finalists and Finalists of the previous editions of the Competition are not allowed to take part in the Start-up Challenge, unless the Jury decides otherwise.
 4. In the event that a Start-up selected by the Team of Experts withdraws from participation in the Competition, the Start-up ranked next in the ranking list shall be entitled to participate instead.

Article 3

Participants and conditions for participation in the Competition

1. Participants of the Competition can be persons who:
 - a) own a start-up established in accordance with a formula that conforms to the definition of a start-up specified in Article 1, paragraph 9 herein;
 - b) are developing / have developed an innovative product/service as part of the operations of a start-up, pursuant to the definition of innovation specified in Article 1, paragraph 10 herein;
 - c) will specify their belonging to one of the following industry categories of the Competition:
 - i. MODERN ECONOMY. Industry, the power industry, telecommunications, transport, construction, robotics and automation;
 - ii. THE ENVIRONMENT. Environmental protection: technologies for climate, organic farming, smart energy, the use of raw materials, and waste recycling
 - iii. HEALTH & BIOTECHNOLOGY. Medicine, health, medical technologies, pharmacy, and biotechnology
 - iv. BUSINESS PROCESSES. Management, business intelligence, ICT, cybersecurity, logistics, and HR
 - v. CLIENT & LIFESTYLE. Trade and retail, customer experience, e-commerce, fintech, edutech, gaming, sport, and the leisure industry.hereinafter collectively referred to as the Competition Categories;
 - d) fill in (in Polish or English) all the boxes of the application form available on the Competition website and send it through that website in the recruitment period, having previously accepted all the statements therein;
 - e) have full capacity to perform acts in law.

2. Persons who cannot participate in the Competition include the employees of the Organiser and of the Partners, including persons employed on the basis of civil-law contracts, as well as their immediate family members.
3. Each Start-up can apply for the Competition only once. The acceptance of an application is certified by receiving an email that confirms receipt of the application within five (5) working days of its sending via the form available on the Competition website.
4. Sending photos related to the Competition shall be tantamount to authorising the Organiser of the Competition to crop and then publish a given photo in connection with the Competition and the prizes awarded, if any, via websites on the Internet and in the printed press. The party submitting the photos guarantees that it has the rights to grant the above authorisation.

Article 4

Rights of the Organiser

The Organiser reserves the right to remove applications for the Competition that:

1. do not meet the conditions specified in Article 3 herein,
2. contain a description of a concept, the implementation of which would be incompatible with the law of the Republic of Poland (including regulations that protect the privacy of third parties).

Article 5

Application assessment method

1. Each application shall, first and foremost, be subject to formal assessment carried out by the Team of Experts, which shall result in rejection of those applications that do not meet the formal requirements.
2. The applications that have passed through the formal assessment shall be subject to substantive assessment carried out by the Team of Experts, which shall result in:
 - a) rejecting the applications that fail to meet the criterion of innovation,
 - b) awarding points that classify each Start-up in the ranking.
3. While carrying out the assessment, the members of the Team of Experts shall use the Formal Assessment Form and the Substantive Assessment Form, both of which are available on the Competition website.
4. During the substantive assessment stage, each application for the Competition shall be assessed by a minimum of two (2) members of the Team of Experts.
5. Based on the number of points awarded at the preliminary substantive assessment stage, a ranking of the Start-ups applied for the Competition shall be created, **thus qualifying a maximum of 100 best Start-ups for the Quarter-Final**; then, at the next stage of the substantive assessment, **the best 15 Start-ups shall be selected from among them and qualified for the Semi-Final** (three in each of the Categories specified in Article 3, paragraph 1(c)).
6. In the event of a considerable disproportion in the number of applications for particular Categories, the Team of Experts shall be entitled to qualify a greater number of Start-ups for the Semi-Final in the Categories with a significantly greater number of applications by way of granting them 'Wild Cards' that shall entitle them to participate in the Semi-Final.

7. During the Semi-Final, the assessment of particular Start-ups shall be carried out by the Jury, where each Semi-Finalist shall be assessed by all members of the Jury judging in a given Competition Category.
8. The final number of points awarded at each stage of the assessment shall be the arithmetic mean of the assessments made by the Team of Experts (the 2nd stage – substantive assessment), and further on by the Jury (the 3rd stage – speeches delivered by the Semi-Finalists and their answers to the Jury's questions).
9. The minutes drawn up by the Team of Experts and the Jury concerning the ranking and the prizes awarded shall be archived at the Organiser's headquarters.

Article 6

Awards

1. The prizes for the Quarter-Finalists and Semi-Finalists shall be awarded on the basis of a ranking of points scored at the stage of substantive assessment of the applications. The Participants awarded as a result of the substantive assessment shall be informed about it by an email sent to the address they have specified in their application for the Competition and/or by phone and through the Competition website (where the names of the Start-ups shall be published).
2. The prizes for the Finalists shall be awarded on the basis of the assessments of their speeches and answers to questions, given by the Jury during the Event.
3. Awards in the Competition:
 - a) Honour for the Quarter-Finalists:
 - Free-of-charge use of a booth in the Start-up Alley zone at the Event's venue during the Event, allowing the Start-up to be presented to the guests of the European Tech and Start-up Days and the European Economic Congress, and thus to:
 - attract an investor and/or financial partner from among the representatives of big business who take part in the European Economic Congress,
 - attract the attention of the members of the accredited media (500 accredited journalists),
 - meet people similar to the Participant and exchange their experiences with other representatives of Start-ups.
 - b) Awards for the Semi-Finalists (18 Start-ups + possibly the Awardees of the 'Wild Cards'):
 - All of the above, and additionally:
 - The opportunity to present their ideas at the European Economic Congress in the form of speeches (maximum 5 minutes each), and thus to stand an even greater chance of:
 - attracting an investor and/or business partner,
 - attracting the attention of the media.
 - c) Awards for the Finalists (6 Start-ups)
 - All of the above, and additionally:
 - Start-up Challenge Finalist Diplomas

- Promotion of the Finalist Start-ups in the industry-specific media owned by the PTWP SA Group for up to three (3) months following the end of the Event;
- 30-second self-presentation of each Finalist during the Start-up Challenge Awards Gala in the form of a video;
- and prizes from the Partners and Sponsors of the Event (provided that an appropriate declaration is made by a given Partner/Sponsor).

d) Special Awards: The inSilesia Award

- Cash prizes funded by the Marshal of the Silesia Voivodeship in the amount of: 1st prize – PLN 20,000, distinction – PLN 15,000, distinction – PLN 15,000 (general principles of taxation apply).
- The award funded by the Silesian Development Fund in the form of additional support – "Capital Entry" – participation in an exclusive mentoring program including participation in the investment scheme run by the Silesian Development Fund; technical, financial, legal and organizational and managerial consulting; non-financial support in the form of *smart money* – assistance in building the market value of the company by jointly specifying the development strategy, optimization of the business model and organizational structure, mobilized to keep costs in check, getting used to acting on the basis of objectives, stimulating to conduct an information policy that helps to establish its market credibility and attractiveness, and support with business contacts that facilitate scaling of a business.
- The award funded by the Katowice Special Economic Zone S.A. for the finalists of the competition (1st, 2nd, 3rd prize) in the form of the "Investment Advice Package" consisting of comprehensive support from the KSEZ, including – most importantly – professional investment, legal, tax and financial advisory services for the Finalists' projects, as well as assistance in the preparation of the procedure aimed at obtaining the support of the KSEZ for the Finalists' investment projects

4. The Participants shall not be entitled to exchange their prizes for any other of the prizes awarded in the Competition, nor for cash.
5. The Participants are not allowed to resell the prizes they have won in the Competition, nor can they transfer their prizes to any third parties.
6. The Participants accepting the awards mentioned above give their consent to recording and dissemination of their image free of charge, in whole or in parts, by the Organiser and the designated sponsors of the conference for the needs of film and photographic documentation of the event for the purposes of promotional and informational activities conducted by the Organiser and the sponsors of the event.
7. The Participants may submit a declaration of refusal to accept the award or to use their image, which will be regarded as a refusal to accept the award.
8. Absent Participants shall not take part in the Competition. In the event that a Finalist is unable to show up in person at the Start-up Challenge Awards Gala in order to receive their prize, then someone else should represent the Start-up in question instead.

9. Should the winner of a prize be a person who does not meet the conditions specified herein, they shall lose their right to the prize. The Organiser shall be entitled to award such a prize to a Participant ranked next in the Competition.

Article 7

Processing of personal data

1. The controllers (joint controllers) of personal data collected during the process of registration and acceptance of applications for the Competition are: PTWP-ONLINE Sp. z o.o. seated in Katowice, as the publisher of online portals and manager of IT systems used to handle the registration or application processes and to support other services provided by the companies of the PTWP SA Group; and Polskie Towarzystwo Wspierania Przedsiębiorczości S.A. seated in Katowice, as: the parent company within the PTWP SA Group, the Competition Organiser, press publisher, event organiser, and provider of other services available through the said portals.
2. Common contact details of the joint controllers: Plac Sławika i Antalla 1, 40-163 Katowice; odo@ptwp.pl
3. The personal data collected within the Competition shall be processed for the purposes of: – identifying the application and proceeding to the next stages of the Competition, including: contacting the Applicant and the entities submitted in the application; obtaining additional explanatory information concerning the application and the persons/objects/events submitted to the Competition; informing about the results of the Competition; and agreeing on the Applicant's participation in the awards ceremony; – informing about subsequent editions or similar competitions; direct marketing of services and communication between the data controller and the Participant, in the form of written correspondence, electronic mail or using telecommunications equipment (phones, SMS).
4. Data processing consisting in collecting, storing and making available the data from the application form is necessary to fulfil the above legally justified purposes exercised by the data controllers mentioned above. For certain data or specific types of processing that cannot be considered necessary for the fulfilment of the above purposes, or for purposes that cannot be considered sufficiently justified, the controller may ask for separate consent. Such individual consent will then be the basis for the data processing.
5. The data shall be processed only for the time necessary to achieve the purposes of the processing, but not longer than until the moment of raising an appropriate objection to the processing or withdrawal of consent to a given type of processing. It is possible to object to the processing or to a given type of processing, or withdraw one's consent at any time, using the following link / sending an email to the following address: odo@ptwp.pl.
6. The person whose personal data were provided during the application/registration process shall be entitled to access and correct their data. Such a person may request the rectification, erasure or restriction on their data processing at any time; they shall also have the right to object to a given type of processing and to lodge a complaint with the competent supervisory authority, subject to the conditions set out in relevant legislation.

Article 8

Complaints

1. Any and all complaints related to the qualification for the Quarter-Final of the Competition should be sent to the following email address: promocja@estartupdays.eu. A complaint shall be considered by the Organiser within seven (7) working days of its receipt. The Participant of the Competition shall be informed about the results of the complaint procedure by email within fourteen (14) working days of the date on which the complaint has been received by the Organiser.
2. The complaint should contain the first name and surname of the Participant, their phone number and email address, and a description of the complaint.
3. As for the remainder, no appeal shall lie from any decision taken by the Organiser and members of the Team of Experts and the Jury.

Article 9

Final provisions

1. The Competition runs from 24 January 2020 to 17 July 2020.
2. To all matters not settled herein the provisions of the Civil Code and the Personal Income Tax Act of 26 July 1991 (Journal of Laws of 2000, No. 14, item 176, as amended) and other generally applicable laws shall apply.
3. These Competition Terms and Conditions are available for the Participants on the www.estartupdays.eu website in the 'APPLICATIONS' tab (the Competition website), as well as at the Organiser's headquarters.
4. These Terms and Conditions may be changed during the Competition for important organisational and legal reasons; however, such changes shall not affect the rights already acquired by the Participants of the Competition.

Article 10

Privacy Policy

1. How shall the Organiser and/or the members of the Team of Experts contact the Participants of the Competition?

The Organiser shall contact the Participants by posting information on the Competition website and fan page, as well as by email and, in exceptional cases, by phone.

2. How can a Competition Participant inform the Organiser about a change of data within the Competition?

Information about the change of data can be submitted by email to the contact address specified on the Competition website: promocja@estartupdays.eu.