

Frequently Asked Questions

What is the Tournament?

The Social Innovation Tournament established by the EIB Institute is the flagship initiative of the Social Programme. The Tournament seeks to promote the generation of innovative ideas and identify/reward opportunities promising substantial societal benefits or demonstrating best practices with tangible, scalable outcomes.

Does the Tournament target specific fields?

The Tournament targets the creation of social value in relation to the **fight against social exclusion**. It thus covers projects in a wide range of fields, from **education** and **health care** to **natural or urban environment**, from new technologies to new systems and new processes. Improvements in these fields are critical to business success, and social innovation could have a substantial social impact. With the introduction of a Special Category Prize in 2013, additional emphasis will be given to a specific field each year. In 2013, the special category prizes will be awarded to projects in urban and natural environment.

Do proposals need to address the whole issue or can they focus on single aspects?

Any proposal that helps to find a solution, whether directly or indirectly, will be considered. Please note that the selection criteria include the relative significance of the problem targeted, the sustainability of the proposed innovation and the estimated social impact of the proposed solution.

Do proposals have to be global in scale?

No. Proposals can outline a local solution tailored to a certain area since local or small-scale solutions could be replicated and demonstrate high potential impact. However, the higher the impact the better.

Does the Tournament give the EIB Institute any ownership or IP rights over proposals submitted?

No. Participation in the Tournament will not, in and of itself, give the EIB or the EIB Institute any claims on intellectual property rights.

Who can apply?

The Tournament is open to individuals or teams from (or residing in) the European Union Member States, Candidate and Potential Candidate countries, and the EEA that submit proposals to be implemented in one or more such countries.

Do proposals have to be not-for-profit?

Not necessarily. The Tournament aims to attract interest from both not-for-profit and for-profit organisations so as to better work towards meeting social innovation needs.

Does the size or type of applying entities matter?

Not at all. Entries are mainly expected from young entrepreneurs and social enterprises, the corporate responsibility departments of private sector companies of any size, NGOs and government or local government bodies and university communities. Entries from high school teams will not be excluded.

Can ideas already implemented be submitted?

Yes.

Should proposals be accompanied by a business plan?

A formal business plan is not required. However, the proposals need to be clear and convincing, so the key elements of a business plan such as a description of the product or services proposed, an assessment of financial and other resources required and demonstration of the overall sustainability of the proposal are essential.

How are applications to be submitted?

There is no specific form to be filled in. Applications need to be submitted by the deadline both electronically and in paper copy. Submissions should be restricted to a 10-page summary, including any slides or visual components (but not the CVs of individuals involved).

Is there a specific writing style – page size of the text?

A standard A4 page is expected, using Times New Roman 12 or Arial 10 fonts or similar.

Is there a fee to enter the competition?

No fee! It is free.

I applied last year. Can I apply again this year?

Winning projects cannot be re-submitted. Projects that were submitted in previous editions, even if they were finalists, can be re-submitted if there are improvements vis-à-vis the previous submission. Winning teams and individuals can apply as many times as they want with new projects.

What are the submission deadlines?

The deadline for proposals for the second EIB Institute Social Innovation Tournament is 15 May 2013. The deadline for the next Tournament will be announced in due course.

What is the structure of the Tournament?

The Tournament has been structured to run in **two rounds**: Proposals submitted by the deadline for submissions (15 May 2013) will be screened and up to 15 finalists will proceed to the 2nd round. The finalists will be invited to present their proposals at a Final Event (to be held in Budapest, Hungary on 17 October 2013) where the Tournament winners will be selected and prizes awarded.

How many prizes are foreseen?

All projects will compete for the General Category 1st and 2nd Prize of EUR 25 000 and EUR 10 000 respectively. Projects falling under the Special Category (in 2013, urban and natural environment) will also compete for the Special Category Prize of EUR 25 000. No winner may get more than one prize.

How many projects can I submit?

Any single applicant can submit as many proposals as he/she wants.

My project won a prize in a previous edition of the tournament. Can I apply again this year?

Yes you can but with a new project!

In which language can I submit my proposal?

Projects can be submitted in French or English. Presentations at the Final Event will be in English.

Who will be invited to attend the Final Event?

Other than the Selection Committee and the finalists themselves, invitations will be sent to social innovation specialists, project experts, financial experts, representatives of the NGO community and other professionals involved in promoting/supporting innovation, notably social innovation, including from the host institution. Participants in the Tournament not selected for the 2nd round will also be invited to attend.

What will be the composition of the Selection Committee?

The Selection Committee will be composed of social innovation specialists mainly from the fields of research and financing. The Selection Committee will be present at the Final Event, follow the presentation of proposals by the finalists and deliberate before deciding on and announcing the winners.

What are the selection criteria for each round?

Proposals must comply with the Tournament requirements ([INSERT LINK](#)).

In the 1st round, proposals will be screened on the basis of their clarity and the way the summary answers questions such as: *What is the product or service proposed? What is its cost (for development and implementation)? How will this cost be covered? What are its social innovation and expected overall impacts? What are the chances of success?*

The 2nd round assessment will take further account of the likelihood of implementation based on the scope of the proposal's social vision and its overall cost effectiveness as well as the team's commitment, strategy and implementation capacity.

When will the finalists who are to proceed to the 2nd round be announced?

The finalists of the 1st round who will be screened to proceed to the 2nd round of the Tournament will be announced by **15 June 2013** at the latest.

Will the results of the 1st round screening be published? When?

The results of the 1st round screening will be published on the EIB Institute's website at the end of the selection process.

Can proposals selected for the 2nd round be altered for the final presentation at the event?

The finalists will be allowed to fine-tune/complete their ideas between the two rounds, ensuring that they meet the 2nd round assessment criteria. Final proposals must be submitted no later than 15 September 2013.

How will the Final Event be organised?

The selected finalists will be invited to give a public presentation of their proposal (10 minutes each), which may be followed by questions from the Selection Committee (5 minutes). The deliberations of the Selection Committee will take place at the end of the presentations and lead to the announcement of the winners and the award of the respective prizes.

Will any of the participants' costs be met by the organisers?

It is foreseen that travel expenses for up to two people to travel to Budapest, Hungary will be covered for teams or individuals with proposals selected for the 2nd round. Travel expenses for one member of the team to attend the mentoring workshop will also be met by the organisers.