



EUROPEAN INNOVATION COUNCIL AND SMEs EXECUTIVE
AGENCY (EISMEA)

EISMEA | Innovation Ecosystems, SMP / Entrepreneurship and Consumers
01 EU and place-based Innovation Ecosystems

Horizon Europe

Call for a prize — Rules of Contest

The European Social Innovation Competition 2021
(EUSIC)

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INTRODUCTION: The European Social Innovation Competition 2021

The European Social Innovation Competition 2021 (hereinafter referred to as 'the Competition') is organised by the European Commission (hereinafter referred to as 'the Commission') and the European Innovation Council and Small and Medium Enterprises Executive Agency - EISMEA (hereinafter referred to as 'the Agency'). The Commission department in charge of the Competition is the Directorate General for Internal Market, Industry, Entrepreneurship and SMEs, also known as DG GROW.

The official webpage of the Competition on the Commission's website is:
http://ec.europa.eu/growth/industry/innovation/policy/social/competition_en.

The regulatory framework for this EU Funding Programme is set out in:

- Regulation 2018/1046 ([EU Financial Regulation](#))
- the basic act (Horizon Europe Regulation¹)

The call is launched in accordance with the European Innovation Council (EIC) 2021 Work Programme².

Read these rules of contest carefully before submitting an entry. By submitting an entry, you accept these rules of contest and agree to comply with them.

1. OBJECTIVES PURSUED

The competition aims at stimulating social innovation's potential to provide solutions to societal challenges and foster sustainable and inclusive growth in Europe. It will directly support some ideas best illustrating that potential. It will engage citizens, businesses (including start-ups) in a large range of sectors, as well as universities, business and engineering schools, thereby creating new connections, sources of growth and job opportunities.

This competition is composed by the European social innovation challenge prize, and the European social innovation impact prize.

The Competition has been designed to offer more than just prize money. It includes non-financial support in the form of business accelerator services (i.e. training, mentoring and/or coaching) that will benefit not only the winners, but all 30 semi-finalists and finalists. These business accelerator services aim to help participants turn their ideas into tangible and sustainable projects, so that they deliver results and achieve maximum impact. The Competition provides other benefits such as visibility for the ideas and networking opportunities. It will allow semi-finalists and finalists of the Challenge prize to connect to a wide range of social innovation experts, organisations, investors and networks from Member States and Associated Countries. For details about the support opportunities available please see the Entrant Handbook, available [here](#) on the competition website.

1.1 Challenge prize objective: annual theme

The "Skills for Tomorrow" 2021 Competition is looking for scalable social innovations that will contribute to job creation, growth and European competitiveness by helping people, businesses and industries identify, develop and strengthen the skills that will power the European economy's green and digital future. The Competition is open to early stage ideas that tackle different challenges including but not limited to identifying and mapping skills gaps, skills development and training. Solutions can relate to the skills needed for the green future, the digital future or both but all solutions must take their own environmental impact into consideration.

All ideas are welcome, and we particularly encourage concept or early stage ideas as well as those that have begun the prototyping stage. The Competition aims to support the development of new and early-stage solutions related to the annual theme, and to help them reach the stage of prototyping and implementation.

¹ Regulation (EU) of the European Parliament and of the Council establishing Horizon Europe – the Framework Programme for Research and Innovation, laying down its rules for participation and dissemination, and repealing Regulations (EU) No 1290/2013 and (EU) No 1291/2013, for the period 2021-2027 (soon to be adopted).

² Commission Implementing Decision C (2021) 1510 of 17 March 2021 concerning the adoption of the work programme for 2021 and the financing decision for the implementation of the Horizon Europe programme.

Entries must be original ideas from contestants. They may propose new or improved ways to implement solutions, combine them, or adapt them to a different context or target group, but they cannot be exact copies of those. The contestants must demonstrate the novelty of their solution, in comparison with those already developed/implemented by themselves or by others in their context. The contestants are also expected to indicate how the participation in the Competition may benefit their idea (e.g. prize money, technical assistance, mentoring, networking, visibility or other related benefits).

Further background on the theme of the Competition is available on the [Competition webpage](#).

1.2 The Impact Prize objective

It aims at recognizing the progress made by the semi-finalists of the European Social innovation competition challenge prize **2020 edition** on evolving their original proposals (against the 2020 theme), on developing the best impact methodology and on demonstrating the best results among all participants.

2. PRIZE AMOUNT(S): 200.000 EUR

This competition is composed by the European social innovation challenge prize, and the European social innovation impact prize.

2.1 Social Innovation Challenge Prize

The Competition will support the winning solutions of the 2021 Challenge prize with **three cash awards of 50.000 euros** to each of the best three ideas, from those selected as finalists.

2.2 Social Innovation Impact Prize

The Competition will award with **one impact prize of 50.000 euros** the applicant which demonstrates the highest quality of impact measurement and the greatest degree of impact achieved amongst the 2020 edition semi-finalists and finalists.

3. DEADLINES, TIMELINE & ADMISSIBILITY

3.1 Timeline for the challenge prize category

Stages	Date and time or indicative period
Opening of the contest	8 April 2021, 12pm CEST
Deadline for submission of applications	12 May 2021 12pm CEST
Start of Business acceleration services for semi-finalists	14 July 2021
Opening of submission of detailed plans by semi-finalists	11 September 2021
Deadline for submission of detailed plans by semi-finalists	24 September 2021
Award of the prize	November / December 2021

Applications must be submitted in one of the official languages of the European Union, by the (lead) participant via the online entry form available at <http://eusic.challenges.org>, which is also linked through DG GROW Competition webpage.

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

Late entries will not be accepted. The Agency is not responsible for entries which are lost, damaged or late due to computer, network or telecommunications failure.

Applications must be readable, accessible and printable. Incomplete applications may be considered inadmissible if essential elements are missing.

3.2 Timeline for the impact prize category

Stages	Date and time or indicative period
Opening of the contest	21 June 2021
Deadline for submission of applications	6 August 2021
Award of the prize	November / December 2021

4. ELIGIBILITY

Eligibility criteria must be complied with for the entire duration of the Competition. The eligibility of applicants established in Horizon Europe associated countries will be assessed according to rules introduced in Annex III of the [EIC 2021 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.

4.1 Eligibility criteria for the Challenge Prize

- The applicant must be a legal entity (including single persons or groups of legal entities except public administrations) located in one of the Member States or Associated Countries.
- Ideas and proposals from all sources, sectors and all types of organizations including for-profit, non-for-profit, or private companies are welcome.

4.2 Eligibility criteria for the Impact Prize

- The applicant must be a legal entity (including single persons or group of legal entities except public administrations) located in one of the EU Member States or Associated Countries.
- The applicant must have been awarded as one of the 30 semi-finalists of the European Social innovation competition 2020 edition.

5. AWARD CRITERIA

5.1 Award criteria for the Challenge prizes

For this yearly competition, 3 prizes will be awarded after closure of the contest to the applicants who, in the opinion of the jury, best address the following cumulative criteria:

- **Degree of Innovation** - the degree to which any new product, service or model addresses unmet needs more effectively. The idea must be new and innovative within its given socio-economic and geographical context;
- **Impact** - the potential of the proposal to tackle the competition challenge. The applicant must demonstrate how the proposed solution will contribute to solving the challenge;
- **Sustainability**- the financial and environmental sustainability of the proposal
- **Scalability and replicability** - the idea's potential to scale and be replicated, be it at regional, national, European or global level.

5.2 Award criteria for the Impact Prize

For this yearly competition, one prize will be awarded after closure of the contest to the applicant who, in the

opinion of the jury, best addresses the following cumulative criteria:

- **Quality and clarity** of the theory of change and of the impact measurement methodology with relevant indicators developed by the applicant;
- **Demonstrated results** over the previous year, on the basis of the chosen indicators.

6. DOCUMENTS

The mandatory supporting documents are set out in the application form available on the [Competition website](#).

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

7. PROCEDURE

7.1 Challenge Prize procedure

All eligible submitted applications will be assessed and scored using the criteria outlined above (see point 5.1) and below (see point 7.1.1). If there are more than 60 applications there will be a pre-selection phase to select the best 60 applications to pass to the jury review. Otherwise, all applications will pass directly to the jury review.

7.1.1 Pre-selection

Pre-selection assessment: Each application will be assessed and scored against the Competition's criteria by two assessors, who also make an overall comment on the quality of the idea and provide a recommendation as to whether or not the application should be shortlisted. Scores from the pre-selection assessment phase will be subject to a normalisation process to ensure consistency and fairness across all assessors.

Selection of semifinalists: The 60 top scoring entries will be taken forward for further scrutiny by a jury panel appointed by, but independent from, the Commission. The jury panel will be composed of experts in social innovation, skills development, digital and green transitions and other topics related to the competition's topic. The jury panel is composed keeping in mind gender and geographic diversity. The jury will make informative recommendations to the Commission, which will make the final decision on the selection of the semi-finalists.

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

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. Degree of Innovation	12.5	25
2. Impact	12.5	25
3. Sustainability	12,5	25
4. Scalability and replicability	12.5	25
Total	50	100

For applications with the same score, the assessment 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 2 will be given a weight of 1.5.

The final decision in this regard will be taken and made public by the Agency, upon recommendation from the jury. Up to the best 30 entries with the highest scores will be selected and designated as semi-finalists. The

Agency reserves the right to establish a reserve list of indicatively 5 entries, in case any contestants stop meeting the eligibility criteria and have to be excluded from participation before the Social Innovation Academy takes place. Any application excluded will be informed immediately about the decision.

All other contestants will be informed that their application has not been qualified as semi-finalist

Given the large number of entries which are expected over the first phase of the Competition, the Commission will not be in a position to provide individual and customised feedback to unsuccessful contestants at that stage.

7.1.2 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);³
- b) are in one of the following situations⁴:
 - bankrupt, being wound up, having the 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);
 - guilty of grave professional misconduct⁵ (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 information;⁶

³ See Article 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).

⁴ See Articles 136(1) and 141(1) [EU Financial Regulation](#)

⁵ 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.

⁶ See Article 141(1) [EU Financial Regulation](#)

d) were involved in the preparation of the prize documents and this entails a distortion of competition⁷.

7.1.3 Support for Semi-Finalists: Coaching & the Social Innovation Academy (July 2021-September)

In early July 2021 semi-finalists will be informed of their selection and provided with invitations to the Social Innovation Academy, with detailed logistical information to follow over July 2021. The Academy will consist of a series of workshops and expert sessions to support the semi-finalists in developing their Detailed Plan. Semi-finalists will also be paired with a coach who will offer them 20 hours one-to-one guidance. From the announcement of semi-finalists until the end of the Academy, the Competition process will pause i.e. no assessment or judging activities will be conducted. For more details of the content and aims of the Social Innovation Academy, please see the Entrant Handbook.

The travel and accommodation costs for semi-finalists' participation in the Academy will be covered by the Commission (two participants per entry, with exceptions to be considered by the Commission on a case-by-case basis in case of special needs). Being unable to participate in the Academy will not prevent semi-finalists from competing for the finalist phase. Their participation is however highly recommended due to the added value the Academy offers in terms of training, peer learning and networking.

All semi-finalists might be contacted at any point in time during the competition for interviews or requests of information for communication purposes.

The Contractor supporting the organization of the Competition may contact contestants to undertake reasonable activities relating to the delivery of the Competition, including but not limited to: a) Pre-scheduled mentoring and coaching sessions; b) Interviews / gathering of information for communication purposes.

7.1.4 Finalist Phase (September - November 2021)

From the day following the Academy's end until November 2021 (indicatively), the Competition will enter the **Finalist phase**.

Once this **Finalist phase** has begun and with the view of ensuring equal treatment between contestants, no contact will be allowed between, on the one hand, the semi-finalists and, on the other hand, the Commission or the jury panel members.

On the basis of the inputs received during the Academy and of the coaching sessions, the semi-finalists will be asked to develop their ideas and **to submit a 'Detailed Development Plan'**.

Practical modalities will be further specified and communicated to them. **Detailed plans must be submitted indicatively by the deadline of 24 September 2021, 12pm CEST. The confirmed deadline will be communicated in due time to Semi-finalists.**

The semi-finalists will be scrutinised again in a second selection meeting of the jury panel. The jury panel will evaluate the Detailed Development plans submitted by the semi-finalists against the **4 award criteria** and score them as follows (only full or half marks are possible):

Criterion	Maximum points
1. Degree of Innovation	25
2. Impact	25
3. Sustainability	25
4. Scalability and replicability	25
Total	100

⁷ See Article 141(1) [EU Financial Regulation](#)

NB. As an original threshold of 50 was met during the Semi-Finalist selection and the projects have therefore already demonstrated the minimum achievement across the award criteria, no additional threshold is needed at Finalist stage.

Prior to the jury meeting, scores from the judges will be subject to a normalisation process so that judges are alerted to potential inconsistencies in scoring, allowing them to make revisions where they feel it is appropriate.

For applications with the same score, the selection 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 2 will be given a weight of 1.5.

Upon recommendation from the selection jury, the Agency will select the best entries which will be called **'finalists' and will compete for the three Challenge Prizes**. Indicatively up to 10 ideas are expected to be selected as 'finalists' for the **Awards Ceremony**.

7.2 Impact Prize Procedure

Semi-finalists and finalists of the 2020 edition will be invited to complete an Impact report in order to enter the Impact Prize. This report will follow a set template which will provide the opportunity to outline participants' progress, impact methodology and analysis of impact and results. Eligible participants will be contacted in June 2021 with full details.

The Agency intends to award the Impact Prize against the criteria as outlined in section 5.2 above. The social impact being presented for consideration in the Impact Report must relate to the project that was submitted as part of original application to the 2020 Competition, and cannot be part of pre-existing areas of work, even if they relate to the project.

The jury panel will consist of the same individuals who evaluated the European Social Innovation Competition applications (for the Challenge Prize category) of the 2020 edition.

The jury panel will make informative recommendations to the Agency, which will take the final decision on the winner.

The jury panel will evaluate each Impact Report against the **2 award criteria** and score them as follows (half marks are possible decimals are not):

Criterion	Threshold	Maximum points
1. Quality and clarity of the theory of change and of the impact measurement methodology with relevant indicators developed by the applicant;	12.5	25
2. Demonstrated results over the previous year, on the basis of the chosen indicators.	12.5	25
Total	25	50

Prior to the jury meeting, scores from the judges may be subject to a normalisation process so that judges are alerted to potential inconsistencies in scoring, in order to make revisions where appropriate. This will only be required where sufficient entries are received to merit normalisation.

For applications with the same score, the assessment 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 2 will be given a weight of 1.5.

Upon recommendation from the selection jury, the Agency will select the single winning application entry. Non-winning entries will be informed about the decision shortly afterwards.

7.3 Awards & Award Ceremony

The Challenge Prize winners and the Impact prize winner of the 2020 edition will be announced in Q4 2021 (date tbc).

The travel and accommodation costs for their participation as a "finalists" in the European Social Innovation Awards will be covered by the Commission (two participants per entry, with exceptions to be considered by the Commission on a case-by-case basis in case of special needs). Unsuccessful semi-finalists are invited and encouraged to join the event considering the unique networking and exposure opportunities that the Summit provides. The same reimbursement rules will apply to them. The Award ceremony might take place remotely

7.4 Alumni Network

The Alumni Network is an additional networking opportunity offered to those applicants of the Competition who enter the semi-final stage. All semi-finalists are eligible to become part of the Alumni Network of the European Social Innovation Competition. The Alumni Network offers all semi-finalists, finalists and winners of the Competition a platform to network and exchange on social innovation related matters beyond their Competition cycle. For full details please see the Entrant Handbook.

For information about the treatment of data for Alumni, please see our [privacy policy](#).

8. OTHER CONDITIONS

8.1 Payment arrangement

The Challenge Prizes and Impact Prize money (EUR 50.000 for each) will be paid via bank transfer in one single instalment to the prize winners after the award ceremony, provided all the requested documents have been submitted. In case of a group of winners, the payment will be made to the lead applicant.

Winners are responsible for payment of taxes in their country of origin where applicable on the prize money.

The applicant bears the sole liability in the event of a claim relating to the activities carried out in the framework of the contest.

The winners accept the obligations referred to in Article 129 of the Regulation No 2018/1046⁸ and the publicity obligations as specified in the rules of the contest.





8.2 Publicity — Promoting the prize — Visibility of EU funding

8.2.1 Communication — Dissemination — Visibility of funding

Prize winners 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.

Communication activities related to the prize (*including media interviews, press statements, presentations, etc., in electronic form, via traditional or social media, etc.*), must acknowledge EU support and display the European flag (emblem) and funding statement (translated into local languages, where appropriate)

⁸ 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.

 <p>Funded by the European Union</p>	 <p>Funded by the European Union</p>
 <p>Co-funded by the European Union</p>	 <p>Co-funded by the European Union</p>

The emblem must remain distinct and separate and cannot be modified by adding other visual marks, brands or text.

Apart from the emblem, no other visual identity or logo may be used to highlight the EU support.

When displayed in association with other logos (e.g. of winners or sponsors), the emblem must be displayed at least as prominently and visibly as the other logos.

For the purposes of these obligations, the winners may use the emblem without first obtaining approval from the awarding authority. This does not, however, give them the right to exclusive use. Moreover, they may not appropriate the emblem or any similar trademark or logo, either by registration or by any other means. Any communication or dissemination activity related to the prize must use factually accurate information.

Moreover, it must indicate the following disclaimer (translated into local languages where appropriate):

“Funded by the European Union. Views and opinions expressed are however those of the author(s) only and do not necessarily reflect those of the European Union or European Innovation Council and SMEs Executive Agency. Neither the European Union nor the awarding authority can be held responsible for them.”

8.2.2 Publicity by the Commission and the Agency

The Commission and the Agency may use, for their 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 and the Agency will publish the name of both the semi-finalists, finalists and 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).

8.3 Dissemination and exploitation of results

The provision of a plan for dissemination and exploitation is not required for this contest.

8.4 Processing of personal data

Any processing of personal data in the context of this prize will be done in accordance with Regulation 2018/1725. Full details are explained in the [privacy policy](#).

By submitting the application, all applicants accept that the awarding authority will publish information on the semi-finalists, finalists and winners.

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 (please see guidance note below).

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 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 Integrity⁹.

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.

8.7 Conflict of interests

The participants must take all measures to prevent any situation where the impartial and objective award of the prize(s) 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

Neither the Commission nor the Agency can be held liable for any damage caused to the participants or to third parties as a consequence of the Competition, including for gross negligence.

⁹ The European Code of Conduct for Research Integrity (revised edition): https://ec.europa.eu/info/funding-tenders/opportunities/docs/2021-2027/horizon/guidance/european-code-of-conduct-for-research-integrity_horizon_en.pdf

The Commission cannot be held liable for any damage caused by any of the participants in the context of the Competition.

8.9 Checks, audits and investigations

The Commission, the Agency, 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 any of the prizes after their 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 has committed irregularities or fraud or has made false declarations, the Commission may also:

- (a) exclude the participant from all future contracts, grants and contests financed from the EU or Euratom budget for a maximum of five years (or 10 years in case of repetition) and/or
- (b) impose a financial penalty between 2% and 10% of the value of the prize (or between 4% and 20% in case of repetition).

8.12 Cancellation of the Competition & variance of the Rules of Contest

The Commission may cancel the Competition or decide not to award the Prize(s) — without any obligation to compensate participants —, if:

- (a) no applications are received
- (b) the jury does not find a winner
- (c) the winner(s) is not eligible or must be excluded
- (d) the objectives of the Competition have already been achieved.
- (e) the objectives of the Competition cannot be fulfilled.

The Commission reserves the right to vary the Rules of Contest as deemed appropriate, taking into account the objectives of the Competition. In the event of any variance, the Contractor will use reasonable endeavors to notify semi-finalists and finalists of any changes. If participants are not happy with the changes, they can withdraw from the Competition; their continued participation will indicate their agreement to any changes.

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 competition website: <http://eusic.challenges.org/> and https://eic.ec.europa.eu/index_en

For any questions, please contact info@socialinnovationprize.eu