

2022 EURECA-PRO 'STEM Innovation Contest' RULES

1. Organizing Committee

Vice-rector for Internationalization of the University of León

One member of the Vice-rectory for Internationalization of the University of León

One member of the Steering Committee of EURECA-PRO

2. Eligibility

Student TEAMS

- Composed by a maximum of 4 members (at least 1 woman) in the last or second-to-last (fourth semester or henceforth) BSc courses or in Master studies at one of the 7 Universities of the EURECA-PRO alliance: Montanuniversität Leoben (Austria), Technische Universität Bergakademie Freiberg (Germany), Technical University of Crete (Greece), Universidad de León (Spain), Politechnika Śląska (Poland), Universitatea din Petroșani (Romania), and Hochschule Mittweida (Germany).
- The team must have one leader and a co-leader and at least one of them must be a woman.

Mentors

- 1-2 mentors (main mentor and a co-mentor, at least 1 with a PhD degree) who perform multidisciplinary STEM ('Science, Technology, Engineering, or Mathematics') research and belong to the academic staff of some of the Universities in the EURECA-PRO alliance.
- Mentors' tasks are to review the project requirements, provide support, promote critical thinking, and empower creative problem solving. For this purpose, mentors need to attend to an online PBL ('Project Based Learning') course free of charge provided by EURECA-PRO by the end of January 2022. See <https://www.eurecapro.eu/stem-innovation-contest/> for course registration.
- Nomination of women as mentors will be valued with extra scoring in the project evaluation criteria.

3. Online Registration

Student teams and mentors need to submit the registration form before the deadline (<https://docs.google.com/forms/d/19x3H6RDREbMCoT5wNTKvIQDDIML1ZUCXBIEIqPr7ASw/edit>). Application period **from January 14th to February 7th 2022**.

4. Pre-selection

The Organizing Committee will ensure that the enrolled projects comply with all the stipulated requirements needed to participate, notifying either project rejection or contest pre-selection to the registered teams.

5. Competition

First Round ‘Conceptual Project’

- Teams will have to elaborate a well-structured conceptual project developing **an innovative idea and the steps necessary for its implementation between February and March 2022**.
- All projects must be **original work** (not counterfeit or copied), developed through a **PBL approach**.
- Projects need to address **one real-world challenge** provided by a STEM-related company of one of the 6 EURECA-PRO countries seeking for the best solution to an everyday life problem or a relevant current social need.
- **English or local language 15-minute presentation** by the team’s leader or co-leader at each EURECA-PRO partner University at the beginning of April 2022. The exact dates of the presentation will be informed by the Organizing Committee after teams’ registration.
- Free presentation format including the following aspects:
 - The team
 - The challenge
 - The method of tackling the problem and its viability
 - The expected results and solution
 - The innovation aspect and the practical application
- **‘First Round’ jury** composed of 4 members: one member of the EURECA-PRO project team, two STEM experts, and one business expert. Gender equity in the jury

composition will be highly recommended. The jury will select one winner of the 'First Round' per partner University that will compete in the 'Second Round'.

Second Round 'Project Implementation'

- **7 'First Round' nominated teams, one from each University**, will have to execute their conceptual project between April and July 2022.
- Project execution with **bounded EURECA-PRO financial support**, to a maximum of 1,500 euro, for small equipment items and materials/supplies needed to implement the project. Expenses covered by the budget do not include personnel salaries or travel/workshop costs. Enforcement costs must be properly justified by invoice or delivery document, and three offers must be provided to guarantee transparency in the spending of funds. Additionally, the budget breakdown must be informed by the main mentor during the first month of the 'Second Round' and approved by the EURECA-PRO coordinator of each partner University.
- **English 15-minute presentation** by the team's leader or co-leader in a final phase at one of the partner Universities of the EURECA-PRO alliance in mid-July 2022. The exact dates of the presentation will be informed by the Organizing Committee.
- **'Second Round' jury** composed of 7 members, including STEM research experts or EURECA-PRO members from each partner University. Gender equity in the jury composition will be highly recommended.

6. Selection Criteria

- **Teamwork:** Know-how, role definition, dedication, and behaviour.
- **Proposal value:** problem definition, generated ideas, and designed/implemented solutions.
- **Feasibility:** The viability that the conceptual project can be implemented in the Second Round and that it offers a valid solution to the proposed real-life challenges.
- **Degree of innovation:** innovativeness of the project approach and implementation.
- **Social and environmental impact:** potential capacity of the project for generating a positive impact in the community where it is developed, benefiting society, or having a positive effect for the environment.
- **Presentation:** clarity in the exposition, creativity, commitment, communication skills, and persuasive attitude.

7. Awards and recognition

- Members of the final winner student team will be awarded with **a 2-month financially supported internship in a STEM-related company from any of the EURECA-PRO partners' countries** (Spain, Greece, Austria, Germany, Poland, and Romania). Internships should be completed **between August and October 2022**. For internships in any international company a minimum B2 English level would be highly recommended for proper internship development.
- Mentors of the winner team will be awarded with a bounded budget for the acquisition of educational materials/digital equipment or a mobility internship at any of the EURECA-PRO partner universities.
- All participants in the 'STEM Innovation Contest', students and mentors, will receive certificates of participation in the competition.

8. Entry conditions and Intellectual property rights

- By participating in the 'STEM Innovation Contest', all team members and mentors agree to comply with and be bound by these Official Rules and the decisions made by the EURECA-PRO Alliance, and the judges of the competition. The EURECA-PRO Alliance reserves the right to disqualify any participant who violates the Contest's Official Rules or behaves in a disruptive or unsportsmanlike manner.
- Participation in the 'STEM Innovation Contest' constitutes consent to the EURECA-PRO Alliance's use of winner's name, photograph and home University for promotional purposes without further payment.
- Contestants will own the intellectual property rights to their conceptual Project and/or their implemented Project but will grant to the EURECA-PRO Alliance a royalty free license to utilise the Projects for non-commercial purposes after the conclusion of the competition.
- The EURECA-PRO Alliance reserves the right to cancel or modify the 'STEM Innovation Contest' if technical failures or any other factor beyond reasonable control impairs the proper functioning of the competition.
- The EURECA-PRO Alliance is not responsible for any incorrect or inaccurate information, caused by unforeseen human error or technical failures of any kind, as well as for any injury or damage to persons or property which may be caused from participation in the contest.