

WIPO GLOBAL AWARDS

RULES OF THE COMPETITION

By entering this Awards Program, each Participant accepts the present Rules and agrees to be bound by them.

1. Introduction

Intellectual property (IP) in its different forms, ranging from patents and trademarks to industrial designs and copyright, is of immense significance for the economic, social and cultural development of society.

The United Nations (UN) recognizes that small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs) and startups make up a large share of economies, whether in developed or less developed countries, and are a critical source of innovation and creativity across all sectors, markets and aspects of life.

The World Intellectual Property Organization (WIPO) takes into account the exclusive role of SMEs and startups to use IP systems to deploy innovative and creative activities that have the potential to contribute economically, socially or culturally to society.

2. Eligibility

2.1. The Awards Program is open to all SMEs or startups located in at least one of [WIPO's 194 Member States](#).

2.2. Eligibility for SMEs

1. It is a registered business entity. Proof of registration is required
2. It has a maximum of 300 staff.
3. It has a maximum annual revenue of USD 15 million.
4. It offers an innovative product or service associated with IP assets.
5. It holds at least one registered IP right.
6. It is established in one market or scaling internationally (*e.g., with established revenues in one or several markets*).

2.3. Eligibility for startups

1. It is a registered business entity. Proof of registration is required
2. It has a maximum of 300 staff.
3. It has a maximum annual revenue of USD 15 million.
4. It offers an innovative product or service associated with IP assets.

5. It has filed at least one application for IP rights.
6. It is at a pre-market or early market stage (*e.g., with pilot project(s), preparing for first sales but no paying customers yet, or with first clients or contracts signed but no recurring revenues yet*).

3. Submission Process

3.1 Only one entry per Participant is permitted. Participants may submit their entry in only one of the two categories eligible for the Awards Program (that is, SMEs or startups).

3.2 All entries to the Awards Program must be submitted in one of the six UN official languages (Arabic, Chinese, English, French, Russian or Spanish) *via* the online application form available at: <https://global-awards.wipo.int/>

3.3 . WIPO reserves the right in its sole discretion to disqualify any submission which does not comply with the present Rules or which, in its opinion, has been entered fraudulently, in an abusive manner, or which may be contrary to the reputation or good name of WIPO.

3.4 WIPO is committed to ensuring the highest level of protection of personal data. All Participants' personal information will be used by WIPO under its Privacy Policy available at: https://www.wipo.int/tools/en/privacy_policy.html

4. Evaluation Process

4.1 WIPO Secretariat, through its internal Global Awards team, with the support of IP experts, will draw up a short list of finalists among all submissions received in time. Finalists will be notified by email at least a week in advance of the public announcement of the shortlist.

4.2 An international jury with extensive expertise in the fields of innovation, creativity and IP, and reflecting geographical, gender, age, cultural and language diversity, will select winners from among the shortlisted finalists. The winners will be notified by email at least a month in advance of the Awards Ceremony.

4.3 The selection criteria that the WIPO Secretariat and the international jury will use are the following:

- a. Business Case and IP Portfolio
- b. IP Commercialization Strategy
- c. IP Culture
- d. Impact for a Better Society

- 4.4 The evaluation will be performed primarily on the written responses provided by applicants in the online form.
- 4.5 The WIPO Secretariat and the jury will take into consideration inclusiveness and diversity
- 4.6 All decisions of the WIPO Secretariat and the international jury are final and not subject to any appeal.

5. Awards Program Calendar

- a. January to end of March: Application period
- b. April-May: Selection of finalists
- c. June: Selection of winners and Special Mentions
- d. July: Awards Ceremony for the public announcement of winners and special events in Geneva.

6. Awards

- 6.1 The Awards Program will recognize a total of ten (10) winners: five (5) SMEs and five (5) startups.

Winners will represent five (5) key sectors: Information and Communication Technologies (ICT), Health, Environment, Creative Industries, and Agrifood, with two (2) winners selected from each sector: one SME and one startup.

In addition, two (2) Special Mentions will be awarded:

- Best Woman Entrepreneur, and
- Best Youth Entrepreneur.

The recipients of these Special Mentions will be selected from among the CEOs or founders of the winning companies by the WIPO Secretariat.

- 6.2 Winners will receive:

- a. Travel to Geneva to attend the Awards Ceremony and special events (funded in accordance with WIPO's rules),
- b. A WIPO Trophy specifically designed for this Program,
- c. Tailored IP mentorship opportunities (considering, on a case-by-case basis, the business background and specific needs of the winners).
- d. Promotion, global visibility and recognition through an Awards ceremony,

special WIPO Awards webpage, WIPO's communication channels, and other external IP-related media.

e. Exclusive access to selected WIPO resources and networks.

7. Intellectual Property

7.1 Participants shall retain all IP rights on the contents of their submissions and/or derived from their business activities. Participants do not transfer any ownership rights by entering the Awards Program.

7.2 By entering the Awards Program, each Participant grants WIPO a non-exclusive, worldwide and royalty-free license to use, reproduce, communicate, make available for public display and distribute the content of its submission for promotional, informational and educational purposes, via printed or digital form, including WIPO's website, provided that such use is accompanied by an acknowledgement that the Participant is the source. This license does not apply to information marked as "confidential" by the Participant in their submission.

7.3 By entering the Awards Program, the Participant warrants and represents that the content of their submission and the grant of license referred to in paragraph 7.2 do not infringe any IP rights, or other proprietary rights, of any third party. Each Participant agrees to release and hold WIPO harmless from and against all claims, expenses and liability, relating to infringement of trademark, copyright, patents or any other proprietary rights arising out of their participation in the Awards Program and the content of their submission.

8. Final Provisions

8.1 No Participant is allowed to use the WIPO name or logo on material produced by them, without the prior written permission of WIPO.

8.2 Each Participant agrees and consents to WIPO taking photographs and making recordings of their likeness during the Awards Ceremony and using their name and likeness in any communication or publication or advertising of the Awards Program and/or their submission posted on WIPO's website and social media platforms, without any compensation or notice.

8.3 Disclosure of confidential information or other sensitive information is at the sole discretion of each Participant and WIPO shall not be held liable for any loss or damage of whatsoever nature arising from disclosure of confidential or other information by the Participant.

8.4 While WIPO makes every effort to ensure that its website and online services are free of any software virus, it cannot guarantee that they are free from any or all software viruses. WIPO shall not be held liable for any loss or damage caused by the use of its online services.

8.5 WIPO shall have the right, in its sole discretion, to modify these terms and conditions and to suspend or cancel the Awards Program without any future obligation. Any such change, suspension or cancellation will be communicated on the [WIPO Awards webpage](#) or via email to the Participant's email address indicated in the online application form.

8.6 Any dispute relating to the Awards Program shall be referred to and finally determined by arbitration in accordance with the UNCITRAL Rules, then in force. The appointing authority shall be the Secretary General of the Permanent Court of Arbitration. The place of arbitration shall be Geneva.

8.7. By creating an account to participate in the competition, Participants agree to be contacted by WIPO via email, newsletters, and other communication channels for the purpose of sharing news and announcements that could be of interest to the Participant.

8.8 Nothing in or relating to these Rules shall be deemed or interpreted as a waiver of any of the privileges and immunities accorded to WIPO as an international organization and a UN specialized agency.