

---

# WIPO 2022 AWARDS FOR INNOVATIVE AND CREATIVE SMEs

---

## RULES

By entering this Awards Program, each Participant accepts the present Rules and agree 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.

Small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs) 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.

Through this Awards Program, WIPO takes into the account the exclusive role of innovative and creative activities of SMEs and undertakes to celebrate SMEs that have used IP rights to deploy innovative and creative solutions having contributed economically, socially or culturally to society, beyond their home country.

### **2. Eligibility**

The Awards Program is open to any SMEs worldwide. Pursuant to the definition of the World Bank, SMEs are those “*enterprises that encompasses up to 300 employees and up to 15 US\$ millions of total annual sales*”.

### **3. Submission Process**

3.1 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://login2.wipo.int/am/saml2/jsp/idpSSOInit.jsp?metaAlias=/external/idp&spEntityID=https://global-awards.wipo.int/saml/metadata> .

3.2 In this form, participants will be requested, in particular, to provide information about the IP rights used by the SME, together with their contribution to economic, social or cultural development, including also at the regional or international level.

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](https://www.wipo.int/tools/en/privacy_policy.html)

#### **4. Evaluation Process**

4.1 WIPO Secretariat, through its internal Awards Program, will draw up a short list of up to **20 nominees** among all submissions received in time. Nominees will be notified by email at least a week in advance of the Announcement of the winners.

4.2 An international jury composed of up to seven individuals with extensive expertise in the fields of innovation, creativity and IP, and reflecting geographical, gender, age, cultural and language diversity, will select **five (5) winners** from among the shortlisted nominees. The winners will be notified by email at least a week in advance of the Awards Virtual Ceremony.

4.3 The selection criteria that the WIPO Secretariat and the international jury will use for the evaluation of the submissions consist primarily of:

(a) The understanding and ability of the SME to protect, manage, commercialize and use any IP rights, as well as other intangible assets such as data, to achieve business and/or corporate objectives;

(b) The positive economic, social or cultural impact of the use of the IP rights and other intangible assets at the regional or international level.

4.4 The determination of Awards will also take into account the need of geographical and cultural diversity.

4.5 All decisions of the WIPO Secretariat and the international jury are final and not subject to any appeal.

#### **5. Awards Program Calendar**

(a) Period for submissions: from December 15, 2021 to March 14, 2022.

(b) Announcement of nominees: Second week of May 2022.

(c) Announcement of the result to winners: First week of July 2022.

(d) virtual ceremony: Third week of July 2022.

#### **6. Awards**

6.1 Winners will receive:

(a) a WIPO Trophy specifically designed for this Program,

(b) customized IP mentorship opportunities (considering, on a case-by-case basis, the business background and specific needs of the winners).

6.2 In addition, winners will be offered promotion, visibility and recognition through an Awards ceremony, special WIPO Awards webpage, WIPO media, and other external IP related media.

## **7. Intellectual Property**

7.1 Participants shall retain all intellectual property rights on the contents of their submission 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.

7.3 By entering the Awards, each Participant agrees to release and hold WIPO harmless from and against all claims, expenses and liability, relating to persons and property, infringement of trademark, copyright, patents or other intellectual property rights arising out of their participation in the Awards Program and the contents of their submissions

## **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 The Organizer 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 e-mail to the Participant's e-mail address indicated in the online application form.

8.3 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.

8.4 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 international organization and specialized agency of the United Nations.

\*\*\*