EIT Higher Education Initiative

EIT | European Institute of Innovation & Technology

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REGULATIONS
FOR THE START-UP INTERNATIONAL
FESTIVAL "STUDAI"

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ABOUT THE HIGHER EDUCATION INITIATIVE

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About the EIT Higher Education Initiative

The EIT Higher Education Initiative is designed to build innovation and entrepreneurial capacity within higher education by integrating HEIs into Europe's innovation ecosystems and value chains. This is more than funding - it's a catalyst for change. The initiative connects institutions with industry and research, fostering collaboration where it matters most.

At the heart of this initiative is the EIT Knowledge Triangle Model - the integration of business, education, and research. Participating HEIs are expected to use this model as a practical tool to enable systemic, institutional transformation. They will also engage with Smart Specialisation Strategies, apply the Regional Innovation Impact Assessment (RIIA) framework, and contribute to the goals of the EIT Regional Innovation Scheme (EIT RIS).

This approach strengthens ties between HEIs and their regional innovation ecosystems and sets the stage for long-term impact, encouraging institutions to tap into additional funding opportunities beyond the initial project.

HEIs are invited to develop proposals that deliver on six key Actions - building entrepreneurial capacity, embedding innovation, and connecting with ecosystems. The outcome? Tangible transformation. Real results. And a stronger innovation future for Europe.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

This document presents the official Regulations for the Start-up International Festival "StudAI", developed within the framework of the HEI-TRAIN — HEI Transformation for Entrepreneurship and AI-Driven Innovation (KAVA 250749) project. It defines the rules, procedures, and organizational responsibilities required to prepare, conduct, and evaluate the Festival.

StudAI_Regulations

The regulations outline the Festival's purpose—to promote innovation, support technology transfer, and strengthen the international competitiveness of student-driven scientific and entrepreneurial ideas. The document also details the objectives of the event, which include identifying promising start-up concepts, supporting young innovators, fostering cooperation between academia and industry, and increasing the commercialization potential of research-based projects.

Key components of the document include:

Participant requirements and responsibilities.

Organizational structure, including the Organizing Committee and Expert Jury roles.

Festival procedures, covering announcement, application submission, preliminary selection, and the final pitching stage.

Evaluation criteria, scoring system, and award mechanisms.

Rules for compliance, intellectual property, and academic integrity.

Appeals procedure for contesting evaluation results.

By formalizing these aspects, the document ensures clarity, transparency, and fairness in the organization of the StudAI Festival and provides a unified standard for coordinating activities among all project partners and participants

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1. General Provisions

1.1 These Regulations outline the procedure and conditions for organizing and conducting the **Start-up International Festival "StudAI"** (the Festival) within the project **"HEI-TRAIN — HEI Transformation for Entrepreneurship and AI-Driven Innovation (24225)"**. The document defines the evaluation criteria and the responsibilities, rights, and obligations of the Organizers and Participants.

1.2. Key Terms:
• **Festival Participant** — a student whose application has been accepted and who is the author of the proposed start-up project.
• **Organizing Committee** — a group responsible for preparing, coordinating, and conducting the Festival.
• **Expert Jury** — representatives of the HEI-TRAIN project who evaluate the start-up projects and determine the winners.
• **Start-up Project** — an innovative project aimed at solving a relevant problem; includes idea description, business model, expected outcomes, and implementation pathway.
• **Pitch Presentation** — a concise, structured presentation demonstrating the value of the project.

The Festival is organized under the "HEI-TRAIN – HEI Transformation for Entrepreneurship and AI-Driven Innovation (24225)" project. Announcements about the Festival are made on the official platform. Projects must align with the scientific focus of the initiative and demonstrate innovation, relevance, and practical implementation potential.

2. Purpose and Objectives of the Festival

Purpose:
To promote innovation, support technology transfer, encourage new ideas, strengthen the international competitiveness of scientific developments. The Festival aims to identify promising specialists who can turn innovative concepts into real projects.

Objectives:
• **Identify strong and promising ideas.**
• **Support young innovators.**
- *Technology transfer.* Facilitate the introduction of scientific research results and developments into practice by supporting start-up projects with commercial potential.
- *Develop cooperation.* Expand interaction between researchers and the business community; attract investors and partners to develop innovations.
- *Increase competitiveness.* Improve the competitiveness of scientific developments by selecting the best projects and providing them with support, thereby encouraging participation in international innovation programmes and grants.

3. Participants
Participants must present an original, innovative idea that belongs to them and comply with all Festival rules while respecting intellectual property rights.

4. Festival Procedure

Stages:

4.1. Announcement. The Organizing Committee publishes an official announcement about the Festival on the designated platform. The announcement specifies the Festival's purpose, participant categories, thematic areas, the timelines for each stage and contact details.

4.2. Submission of applications. Within the period indicated in the announcement, participants submit their applications. An application includes a description of the start-up project (in the structure and length required by the Organizing Committee) and information about the participant. Applications are submitted electronically to the address specified by the Organizing Committee. After the submission period, all projects received are registered.

4.3. Preliminary selection. The Jury evaluates the submitted start-up projects based on the materials provided. The projects selected as finalists move on to the Festival's final stage. The Organizing Committee notifies applicants of the results (whether the project has advanced to the final or been rejected, with reasons given).

4.4. Final stage: presentations and determination of winners. The final takes place in the form of pitch presentations: each finalist presents their start-up project. After the presentations, the Expert Jury evaluates the projects and determines the winners. Results are announced publicly during the final and recorded in the jury's report.

The festival will be conducted online.

Compliance:

The Organizing Committee may reject or disqualify applications if rules are violated (e.g., plagiarism, false data, thematic mismatch, ethical breaches).

5. Organizing Committee

The committee consists of:

• Chair - PhD cand. Julija Mironova, researcher and program director, Riga Nordic University

• Committee Member - Darya Legeza, Doc.Ec.Sc., professor of the Marketing Department of Dmytro Motornyi Tavria State Agrotechnological University;

• Committee Member - habil.dr. Žaneta Simanavičienė
Head of Sustainable Innovations Laboratory, Professor of Public Security Academy, Mykolas Romeris University

• Committee Member - Mykola Umrikhin – researcher of the Department of Physics, Pryazovskyi State Technical University

Committee Member - Viktoriia Riashchenko, Professor, Riga Nordic University

Functions:

• Planning and coordination
• Approving the Jury composition
• Organizational support
• Information support
• Compliance oversight
• Resolving disputes

6. Project Evaluation

The Organizing Committee approves the Expert Jury for the final evaluation of the finalist projects. The Expert Jury evaluates finalist projects using a scoring system. Winners are determined by the total scores.
Jury members:

1. Inga Fedotova (Sytenko Institute of spine and joints pathology NAMSU)
2. Pavlo Sidelov (Techfin, UAB)
3. Mykhailo Lukash Head of Prom-Life, LLC
4. (BBH INVESTMENS)
5. Dr. Tetiana Gorokhova (Centre for Advanced Internet Studies (CAIS)
6. Alessio Parrino Export (Parrino Oil Riserva)

Evaluation Criteria:
• Relevance and significance — 4 points
• Innovation and originality — 4 points
• Practical value and impact — 5 points
• Feasibility — 5 points
• Commercialization potential — 5 points
Awards:
Winners and finalists receive awards determined by the Organizing Committee.

7. Rights and Responsibilities of Participants

Rights:
- Obtain complete information about the Festival's conditions and procedures, including application requirements and evaluation criteria.
- Contact the Organizing Committee for clarification of these Regulations or organizational issues regarding preparation and participation.
- Withdraw their application if they wish.
- Take part in preparatory events organized for participants (such as training sessions or consultations).
- Decline further participation at any stage by notifying the Organizing Committee in writing.
Responsibilities:
- Comply with all requirements and procedures established by these Regulations and the Organizing Committee's decisions.
- Submit their application and all required materials on time and in the prescribed format and volume.
- Ensure that the information provided in the application is accurate and up-to-date.
- Respect intellectual property rights and submit only original ideas and developments.
- Prepare a pitch presentation in line with the Organizing Committee's requirements, adhere to the allotted time and answer questions from the jury.
- Observe academic integrity and ethical standards during the Festival.

8. Final Provisions

These Regulations are mandatory for all arrangers and participants.
Submission of an application confirms agreement with all terms.
Compliance monitoring is conducted by designated representatives.

9. Appeal of Results

9.1 Submission and Review. An appeal may be submitted on the day of result announcement or the next working day. The appeal concerns only the score received for the start-up evaluation.

9.2 Procedure. The Appeal Committee reviews the participant's submitted materials. Only the project content and pitch recording are considered. No additional questioning is allowed.

9.3 Decisions. The Committee may: (1) approve the appeal and adjust the score; (2) reject the appeal and keep the score unchanged.