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Call for Prizes for innovative research, projects, and entrepreneurial initiatives 2024 Re-UNITA Project

The name UNITA evokes the commitment of six universities (Università degli studi di Torino, Universidad de Zaragoza, Université Savoie Mont Blanc, Universitatea de Vest din Timișoara, Universidade da Beira Interior and Université de Pau et des Pays de l'Adour) to a closer integration of their academic activities.

Funded under the project Re-UNITA (Financed by the Horizon Europe programme of the European Commission), the UNITA Innovation Prize, organized by University Savoie Mont-Blanc promotes the Open Innovation inside and around the UNITA community.

a. Background of the call

The concept of Open Innovation brings to attention the set of competencies and assets each team or organization must bring to the table to generate innovation jointly with other teams or organizations. In other words, Open Innovation is linked to going outside each one's organization to look for new ideas and resources, and after that, sharing their own ideas and resources with others (partners, stakeholders, among others). To do so, there is the premise to make use of both external and internal sources of knowledge and skills. To be in presence of open innovation, teams and organizations must have conscious use of the internal and external sources of knowledge to create internal innovation and to increase the awareness of markets to adopt and use the innovation. As of that, Open Innovation indicates that an organization shall rely not only in its internal knowledge, sources, or resources, such as their own staff or own R&D for innovating products or services, or even processes, but shall search for several external sources to innovate, such as customer feedback, published patents, competitors, among others.

Regarding Open Innovation, there are two types that shall be considered, which are Inbound and Outbound Open Innovation.

Inbound methods, such as Intellectual Property Rights (IPR) purchasing, partnerships with clients or outside partners, or crowdsourcing from customers or suppliers, are intended to introduce external knowledge, technology, and ideas into the organization and have an impact on the creation of innovations. Outbound open innovation mechanisms, such as IPR selling and licensing to external firms, spin-off creation, or joint partnerships to co-create new products or services, are aimed at commercializing internal knowledge and technology transferred to external stakeholders, such as customers, suppliers, or other companies.

Open Innovation is a means to accelerate innovation, as well as improving the chance for a greater entrance and connection with the market.

Conversely, Open Innovation is connected as being vital for the UNITA constellation, as well as being an integral part of the Re-UNITA project, since the scope of the project is to implement the steps to develop a common strategy for research and innovation regarding core research subjects. That common strategy is focused on brain circulation and attractiveness among the territories of the alliance through sharing infrastructures, and connecting with citizens and civil society, as well as encouraging knowledge transfer.



Through this, Open Innovation is a concept that is connected to the genesis of the alliance, and thus should be spurred to meet the goals the alliance intends to reach.

This regulation defines the call for ideas within the scope of the Innovation Prize of the Re-UNITA project, namely its guidelines, terms of participation and admissibility of candidates/projects, deadlines for submission of applications, evaluation criteria, prizes awarded, among other applicable definitions.

b. Subject of the call

The following regulation defines the terms of participation and selection regarding the Innovation Prize 2024 of the Re-UNITA project. The objective of this call is to boost Open Innovation in the UNITA community and to contribute to the co-creation of Innovation between the academic world and industry, as well as to increase joint utilization of knowledge and skills between partners Inside the UNITA community, and with the external stakeholders.

c. Organization

1. The Innovation Prize 2024 is an initiative organized within the framework of the Re-UNITA project, included in the UNITA constellation.
2. The Re-UNITA project is a part of the UNITA constellation and aims for the alliance to become a major player in the construction of the new European Research Area, by developing a common strategy for Research and Innovation.

d. Main Goals

1. The Innovation Prize 2024 competition intends to reward the three (3) best Ideas through Open Innovation
2. The Innovation Prize 2024 relates specifically to the generation of ideas, on an open-ended basis, by young university students, professors, researchers, startups, or spinoffs.
3. The Innovation Prize 2024 aims to stimulate creativity, experimentation, as well as the detection of new opportunities and business models.

e. Who can apply?

1. The research teams hailing from the six UNITA partners (students, professors, researchers enrolled for the 2023/2024 academic year), the spin-off and start-up companies that belong to, or are issued from, their incubators, are eligible to apply.
2. Promoters of original ideas, preferably associated with the ability to economically exploit existing scientific and technological knowledge in society and/or research and development processes for new or significantly improved products and processes, with those processes coming from the six UNITA partners.
3. Applicants are responsible in all legal terms for the originality and authorship of the ideas proposed.

f. Thematic areas

The Innovation Prize 2024 allows ideas that come from all kind of themes.

g. Intensive activities and social and societal challenges



For the Innovation Prize 2024, all applicants should present projects that are:

1. [Within the Knowledge Intensive Services](#), and
2. Answer to the social and societal challenges.

h. How to apply

1. Applications will be performed by using [this application form link](#), and adding at it the application report (10 pages max, in one pdf file, detailed in point 5 below.) before **the 10th June 2024, at the latest**
2. All applications shall be written in the English language.
3. The applicants can submit applications for one or more ideas/projects. To each idea/project, a new application should be submitted.
4. Applications will consist in a 10-pages maximum report describing the project; this report will follow the guidelines detailed in point 5 below.
5. The report will present:
 - a. A general overview of the purpose of the research or development undertaken as part of the project submitted for the competition; this overview will place the project in its context;
 - b. A state of the art;
 - c. The proposed solution, highlighting how open innovation is integrated in the project;
 - d. The maturity of the project; a minimum TRL3 level is recommended;
 - e. The future works;
 - f. The CV of all the members of the team and the presentation of the team or company;
 - g. The academic or project references of the members of the team

i. Idea/project selection

1. The Commission of evaluation is made of 12 members: 6 members from the working group of Re-UNITA project, and 6 members from the External Scientific Board (ESB)
2. The Commission will evaluate the documents submitted upon application to evaluate if the idea/project is to be considered for the Innovation Prize 2024.
3. If the Commission considers that the ideas/projects do not meet the minimum quality requirements or do not have the expected relationship with the proposed topics, some modality may be left deserted. In such a situation, the amount of the prizes may be accumulated and applied to the rest of the applications. In any case, the Commission will have the ability to make the decisions it deems most appropriate, and its decisions will be final.

j. Prizes

1. The top three (3) selected works will receive a prize:
 - 2500€ for first prize
 - 1500€ for second prize
 - 1000€ for third prize

and certificate for each of the modalities.

In addition, the selected works will be published, accordingly to confidentiality norms, on the UNITA website.

2. The research or development projects that received the prizes will cooperate with the UNITA project, for informational and awareness-raising purposes, as well as for the defense of the project's objectives, always citing the name of the author, initiative, project.
3. Applications will be performed by using [this application form link](#), and adding the application report (10 pages max, in one pdf file) before the 10th June 2024 at the latest.

k. Evaluation criteria

The ideas/projects will be evaluated by a Commission according to the several evaluation criteria:

Evaluation Criteria/Grid

Criteria	Score 0-10	%
1. Innovation / Open Innovation		40%
i. Innovativeness (Already in market? New research?)		10%
ii. Strategy in Open Innovation: protocols, projects, and activities with external stakeholders; human resources dedicated to external collaborations		10%
iii. Inbound Methods, such as IPR purchasing, partnerships with clients or outside partners, or crowdsourcing from customers or suppliers		10%
iv. Outbound Open Innovation Mechanisms, such as IPR selling and licensing to external firms, spin-off creation, or joint partnerships to co-create new products or services		10%
2. Market Potential		20%
i. Problem Dimension / Quantification		10%
ii. Unmet Need / Market Pain		10%
3. Positioning		10%
i. Place of the project in its context, state of the art		5%
ii. Proposed Solution		5%
4. Project		25%
i. Feasibility (Realistic?)		5%
ii. Impact (program) and Scalability		5%
iii. Maturity (TRL level higher than 3)		5%
iv. Within Knowledge Intensive Activities? Does it meet the social and societal challenges?		5%
v. Project in line with one of the UNITA hub (cultural heritage, circular economy, renewable energy)		2.5%
vi. Project including cooperation with not-for-profit entities		2.5%

5. Team		5%
i. Credibility / Competences / References		5%
Total score		

I. Award Ceremony

1. The three (3) winning projects will be announced during an online Ceremony.
The link to this ceremony will be e-mailed to all candidates.

m. Data protection

1. UNITA is responsible for the computerized and confidential processing of the personal data of all applicants and guarantees its protection and use solely for the purposes of this Innovation Prize 2024, in accordance with Regulation (EU) 2016/679 of the European Parliament and of the Council.
2. The data will be kept for the duration of the competition and will be deleted as soon as the competition has ended and the winners have been announced.
3. By participating in the Innovation Prize 2024, the applicants accept all the terms of this regulation and authorize the Re-UNITA project to disclose information about their applications, as well as images and audios for dissemination on social networks, exclusively for the purpose of promoting the Re-UNITA project and the Innovation Prize. The Re-UNITA project undertakes to safeguard the confidentiality of the data contained in the applications and likely to jeopardize the innovative character of the idea or enable its misuse by third parties.
4. In accordance with the French Data Protection Act (Loi Informatique et Libertés de n°78-17 du 6 janvier 1978 modifiée), Regulation (EU) 2016/679 and the Law for a Digital Republic of October 7, 2016, contest participants have the right to access, rectify, limit, oppose, delete and port their data. These rights can be exercised with the name of the person appointed as responsible within the department/directorate/component.
You can also contact the university's Data Protection Officer at relaisdpo@univ-smb.fr.
If, after having contacted us, you feel that your "Informatique et Libertés" rights have not been respected, you may lodge a complaint with the CNIL.

n. Final considerations

1. It is up to each applicant to define who will own the ideas presented and developed, and it is the sole responsibility of each participant to secure the intellectual and/or industrial property rights to their ideas, should they so wish.
2. The partners belonging to the Re-UNITA project do not guarantee and cannot be held liable if any idea is copied, imitated, plagiarized, or otherwise used by a third party.
3. The partners belonging to the Re-UNITA project reserve the right to decide not to hold the Innovation Prize 2024 if they consider that the quality or number of applications is low.
4. The partners belonging to the Re-UNITA project reserve the right not to award prizes if they consider that the quality or the number of projects submitted is low.
5. The partners belonging to the Re-UNITA project reserve the right to amend the regulation by amendment to be published as soon as adopted.
6. In case of any doubt in the interpretation of the present regulation, it belongs to the partners belonging to the Re-UNITA project to interpret it.

7. Participation in the competition implies full acceptance by the participants of the terms and conditions set out in this regulation.
8. Situations not covered by this regulation will be resolved by the partners of the Re-UNITA project and there will be no appeal against their decision.

o. Further clarifications

Requests for further clarifications should be made in writing to the following e-mail address: unita.office@univ-smb.fr

The present call can be sent by e-mail on written request to the UNITA Office: unita.office@univ-smb.fr

These rules are governed by French law. The parties shall endeavor to resolve amicably any dispute arising from the interpretation or execution of these rules. If the disagreement persists, it will be submitted to the competent courts.

The participant acknowledges having read these rules, accepting them unreservedly and complying with them.