**Frequently Asked Questions**

**I am an individual who has implemented several practical projects to improve young people's skills and promote their digital competences. Can I apply?**

Yes, individuals are eligible. To be eligible, individuals must be either EU citizens or citizens of a third country who are legally resident on the territory of the EU.

**I am a British citizen who lives in the Netherlands. I have carried out an initiative addressing the specific challenges of Ukrainian refugees with disabilities. Can I apply?**

Third-country nationals are also eligible, provided they are legally resident in the territory of the EU. If you have resident status in the EU, e.g. in the Netherlands, you can apply.

**We are a Swedish local administration which** **has implemented several projects to involve young people in local policy. Can we apply?**

We appreciate your efforts, but unfortunately you cannot apply. The prize is open only to non-profit initiatives carried out by civil society organisations, individuals and companies. For the definition of civil society organisations, individuals and companies, please refer to the contest rules.

**We are a small Romanian NGO which has distributed essential goods to people in our neighbouring town in Ukraine, just the other side of the border. Can we apply?**

Yes, you can apply. As NGO you are eligible. Concerning the place where the project is carried out: for category 1 projects (on youth) only projects implemented on the territory of the EU are eligible, whereas for category 2 projects implemented in Ukraine are also eligible.

**We are a commercial company which has delivered medical equipment to Ukrainian hospitals. Can we apply?**

It depends. The prize is open to commercial companies, but only non-for-profit activities. If your delivery was non-for-profit (e.g. because you donated the material) you can apply. If you sold the products for profit, you cannot apply.

**We are a research institute dealing with new patterns of youth participation. Can we apply?**

It depends on your statute. If you are a public entity, you are not eligible. If you are a non-profit organisation you can apply.

**We are a Ukrainian NGO. We have carried out several projects to assist in particular women and children. Can we apply?**

No, unfortunately you cannot apply. Only entities officially registered in the EU can apply.

**We are 3 friends who have launched a nice project which matches the eligibility criteria. Shall we send three applications?**

No, you should send only one application for your project. Various scenarios are possible. If you have founded some kind of organisation or association to launch and/or implement the project, the candidate shall be the organisation/association. If/when you are asked to submit the legal entity form and the financial identification form, you shall submit the forms for that organisation/association. If you are carrying out the project as individuals, without any legal link or contract between the three of you, you should apply as individuals. The candidate should be the person who is legally responsible for the project. If the three of you are equally responsible, you should still send only one application, but in the application form you should indicate the three names.

**We are a large group of several hundred volunteers; we distribute clothes and food to Ukrainian people at the Polish border. Shall we send one or more applications?**

You should send only one application. For further details, please refer to the previous question.

**We are 2 NGOs which jointly carry out one project. Shall we send 2 applications?**

No, you shall send only one application. It shall be in the name of the "lead" organisation. In the application form you should clearly indicate that the project is carried out in cooperation with another NGO. If there is no lead organisation, you still have to send only one application, but in the application form you should indicate the names of both NGOs.

**We are an NGO which carries out a project which is partially financed by public money. More precisely, we receive some funding from the National Migration Office. We also receive some funding from the EU budget. Can we apply?**

Yes, you can apply. Please kindly indicate all funding details in the application form.

**Our organisation implemented several projects dealing with youth. Can we apply for all of them?**

No, you should choose only one project or initiative.

**We are a Finnish NGO which carries out a project which fits both into category 1 and category 2. Can we apply for both categories?**

You can submit only one application. You have to choose the most suitable category.

**We have been implementing our project for the inclusion of refugees and migrants since 2015. We currently focus on Ukrainian people. Can we apply?**

It depends. Initiatives already carried out before the outbreak of the war in Ukraine are eligible only if they were adapted to react swiftly to the additional needs of their target groups and to properly address the new or increased challenges faced as a consequence of the war. Please explain this clearly in the application form.

**In which language shall I submit the application?**

You can apply in any EU official language. However, to speed up the evaluation process, we would appreciate to receive the application form in English.

**Is the application form available only in English and French?**

We can make the application form available in any other EU official language upon request.

**I am preparing the application together with a colleague. My colleague read the prize rules in English, whereas I read them in my mother tongue. We have the impression that one requirement is not exactly the same in both language version. What shall we do?**

All linguistic version are equally authentic. Each translation has been checked carefully. However, mistakes are always possible. Please send us an email and indicate which language and which sentence(s) you are referring to. We will check and do a corrigendum if needed. In the event of a discrepancy, the English version shall prevail.

**Shall I answer to each of the questions corresponding to the prize award criteria listed in the contest rules?**

Yes, you should definitely answer all the questions because the evaluation will be based only on the information you provide in the application form.

**My project is quite weak on one award criterion. Does it make sense to apply?**

It depends on how strong your project is on the other award criteria. There is no minimum threshold for each individual criterion. Applications will be eliminated only if they do not reach a total score of at least 50 points, regardless of how weak or strong each criterion is.

**Will you inform candidates about every step of the evaluation?**

The on-line application system will confirm that the application has been successfully sent. Candidates will not receive any other confirmation message and they will not receive any feedback after the various evaluation steps. Results will be notified to all candidates after the final evaluation, indicatively by mid-December 2022.

**How can I apply?**

You should first check the contest rules, and in particular the eligibility criteria, to make sure you can apply. Then you should fill in the on-line application form. You should apply on-line by 31 July 2022, 10:00 CEST.

**I have tried to send the application short before the deadline but I received an error message. Can I apply after the deadline?**

If you receive an error message a few days before the deadline, we kindly invite you to try again later. If you receive again an error message, please contact our team by email (civilsocietyprize@eesc.europa.eu) to find a solution. If you receive an error message just a few minutes before the deadline, we invite you to send your application by email before the deadline. Please send us also a copy of the error message (e.g. screenshot). Applications sent after the deadline will be rejected. To avoid system overloading, we strongly recommend that candidates send their applications in advance.

**I prepared and saved my application long in advance but due to unforeseen circumstances I managed to send it out only one minute after the deadline. Will you reject applications received only one minute after the deadline?**

Yes, the on-line application tool registers the exact timing and we will check it. To guarantee fair treatment of all candidates, applications sent only one minute after the deadline (i.e. at 10:01 CEST) will also be rejected.

**Shall my organisation be nominated by an EESC member, a national economic and social council or a Pan-European organisation/network?**

None of them. Each candidate shall apply directly.

**What happens if I am nominated by an umbrella organisation or by a local authority and I do not send the application myself?**

Your application will be rejected. Candidates shall apply directly.

**Should I attach supporting documents?**

No, at this stage you should only fill in the application form.

**In the contest rules you mention also the Legal Entity Form and the Financial Identification Form. Shall I fill them in and attach them to my application?**

No, we do not need these forms at this stage of the procedure. Please send these documents only if/when the EESC asks you to do so.

**How much does it cost to participate in this competition?**

Entering the competition is free of charge.

**Before sending my application, I called the EESC and asked to clarify one point. I also had some travel costs because I met twice with other members of the project team. Will the EESC reimburse the cost of this international telephone call and the bus tickets?**

No, in accordance with the contest rules, the EESC will not reimburse any costs incurred in entering the competition.