

EBN – UNDP/IDEASS
International Contest for Innovation 2009
Theme: Eco-Innovations

Develop Innovations to Innovate Development!

Presentation

The European Business and Innovation Centres Network (EBN) and the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) through Innovations for Development and South-South cooperation (IDEASS), have established a cooperation framework aimed at developing innovations and their dissemination, by launching, among other activities, the realization of an international contest open to more than 200 BICs gathered into the EBN. The contest's objective is to identify innovative products, methodologies, solutions and experiences which can be adapted and implemented in other contexts, particularly in less industrialized countries, to solve problems in various sectors.

The contest intends to provide the opportunity for the participants (intended as BICs and their territorial actors) to highlight their experiences and best practices, or their concrete ideas related to the development sectors described below. Given the involvement of EBN, operating at European level and an International Organization such as the UN system, this contest will also provide an important level of international visibility for participants. Furthermore, participating in the contest will offer a concrete opportunity to provide a positive contribution to international development dynamics creating direct relations with the beneficiaries.

The theme for the **EBN – UNDP/IDEASS International Contest for Innovation 2009 is Eco-Innovation**. Applications are invited for innovations related to the following sectors:

- *Governance*, supporting the functioning of local institutions, forging dialogue and territorial planning, managing systems and public services, encouraging citizen's active participation management schemes on the themes of **renewable energy planning and implementation and/or environmental protection and management**.
- *Local economic development*, services for local enterprises, technologies and innovative products and entrepreneurial ideas, new management systems for public services and funds related to **renewable energies and environmental protection and management**.
- *Developing a sustainable environmental patrimony* by adequately managing the historical and artistic heritage, giving value to **environmental and energy resources**, reducing vulnerability, managing emergencies, identifying appropriate technology and methodologies, **supporting environmentally sound business practices**.

Contest promoters

The European Business and Innovation Centre Network (EBN) was set up in 1984 as a joint initiative of the European Commission, European industry leaders and the first pioneering Business and Innovation Centres. Its objectives are to promote the growth of Business and Innovation Centres as well as of other mixed public-private organizations both within and outside the European Union, supporting the emergence of new small and medium sized businesses and develop activities in existing businesses based on new ideas with growth potential. The mission is carried out through the provision of tools and services for the strengthening of local and sustainable entrepreneurship based on the utilization of the territorial endogenous potentials, and through the provision of world-wide exchange opportunities recognizing that although acting locally BICs must daily face global economy. The BIC Clean-Tech network is a thematic working group of BICs working specifically in the area of renewable energies and environmental technologies.

IDEASS Programme, was activated in 2005 in collaboration with UNOPS, as part of UNDP/ART system for international cooperation, and promotes a greater use of innovations for human development through south-south, south-north and north-south cooperation initiatives.

IDEASS seeks to reinforce territorial, integrated and participatory development processes by promoting innovation for human development. The Program aims at improving the ability of local and national public and private actors to respond in a satisfactory manner to the needs of the population through innovative and efficient mechanisms and tools already adopted in other countries. IDEASS accomplishes its mission through the realization of several activities: from building a "supply" of innovations, to their international promotion as well as through the formulation and implementation of south-south, north-south and south-north cooperation projects together with the interested actors.

Implementation

Participants are invited to present their innovation by filling in the application form following the indications provided in the guidelines.

The applications will be evaluated by a Scientific Committee, composed of relevant academic and technical experts, who will evaluate proposals following set evaluation criteria (to be published on the EBN web site, you can also request the evaluation criteria from Ms Julia Brethenoux at jbr@ebn.be) to determine the best innovation among those presented.

The team behind the winning innovation will be awarded with a fully paid overseas assignment to one of the territories where IDEASS is working and where Local Economic Development Agencies (LEDAs) are located (Central America and the Caribbean, Eastern Europe, Africa and Asia at present). The exact territory will be selected based on the potential within the area and the interest local actors in exploiting the winning innovation in their regional territory.

REGULATIONS

1. These regulations are valid for all innovations submitted by EBN Members (full and associate members) participating in the competition EBN – UNDP/IDEASS International Contest for Innovation 2009 of which the theme is Eco-Innovations.
2. To apply for the Innovation Contest the interested EBN members, will have to fill in and submit the relevant 'Innovation Presentation Form'.
3. The last date for submitting the application for the Innovation Contest is 30 September 2009 by 18.00 hours. The Application procedure consists of submitting the duly filled 'Innovation Presentation Form' via e-mail, to Julia Brethenoux jbr@ebn.be.
4. The proposed innovations must be connected with the improvement of human society development and in particular in environmental and ecological issues (environment and renewable energies), and can be related to:
 - a) products;
 - b) technologies and methodologies;
 - c) economic, social and cultural practices and services.
5. The proposed innovations should be submitted according to the form and order described in these Regulations, to ensure an equal standard for all participants.
6. The submitted innovations will be evaluated by a Scientific Committee, consisting of professionals carrying a relevant role in the area of human development and recognized experts in the energy and environmental field.
7. The Scientific Committee will evaluate the proposed innovations according to the following criteria:
 - a) success/contribution to the human society development;
 - b) possibility to reproduce the innovation in other areas of the world;
 - c) accessibility;
 - d) profitability;
 - e) sustainability (environmental, economic, social);
8. The Scientific Committee will evaluate all presented innovations with marks from 1 to 100 and the decision taken will be final.

9. A short-list of the best three innovations will be invited to present during the Cleantech International Venture event which will take place in Lahti, Finland on 26 - 27 November 2009.
10. The author of the final winning innovation will be awarded an all-inclusive assignment, in a country where the ART Initiative and Local Economic development Agencies (LEDA) are operating and where there is deemed to be good potential for the innovation to be introduced.
10. A Brochure presenting the winner innovation will be published and inserted by IDEASS in its International Catalogue. The Brochure will be translated in different languages and internationally disseminated. The intellectual property of the presented innovations and the rights will be reserved exclusively to the authors of the innovations.

For further information contact:

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