

*#Disclaimer: This background note is intended for information purposes only and highlights certain aspects of the EUCYS contest. It is not binding and does not prevent the organisers to further develop or refine the concept of EUCYS in collaboration with the European Commission. More detailed General Guidelines aimed at organisations that are selected to host the Contest can be found on the event webpage [https://research-and-innovation.ec.europa.eu/funding/funding-opportunities/eucys\\_en](https://research-and-innovation.ec.europa.eu/funding/funding-opportunities/eucys_en).*

## **BACKGROUND NOTE – EUCYS**

### **A. EUCYS: The European Union Contest for Young Scientists**

EUCYS is an annual science competition for Young European Scientists aged 14 to 20, funded with support from the European Commission under the Horizon Europe Programme.

It brings together first prize winners of national science competitions to compete with the best of their peers at European level. Participants have the chance to meet others with similar abilities and interests and to be guided by some of the most prominent scientists in Europe. Annually, around 140 Young Scientists from around 40 countries compete for prizes and are judged by up to 25 distinguished scientists.

With this contest, the European Commission seeks to strengthen the efforts made in each participating country to highlight scientific student achievements and attract young people to careers in science and technology.

### **B. Key Participants and Organisations**

#### **The Commission**

This refers both to the institution itself as well as officials of the European Commission. An administrative project officer (PO) within the Commission will be appointed as a principal point of contact regarding administrative and contractual issues.

#### **The Host Organiser**

This refers both to the organisation that is responsible for organising EUCYS as well as the person appointed within that organisation to co-ordinate and manage the event. Such a person could be the respective EUCYS National Organiser, but not necessarily.

#### **The National Organisers (NOs)**

This refers both to the institution and to the person within that institution responsible for the organisation and execution of a participating national contest. The NOs are responsible for the well-being of their students during EUCYS. They submit the applications for the students and are the contact point between the Commission, the host and the contestants.

#### **The Contestants**

The young people, aged between 14 and 20, who have won first prize at their national science competition and have been nominated to represent their national contests at EUCYS.

## **Projects**

Each project consists of a technical written report, display materials and possible models. Each country may enter up to 3 projects (max. number of contestants per country is 6), ensuring that they submit only one entry per discipline.

## **The Adults-in-charge**

Each delegation must have an adult-in-charge of contestants during the entire duration of the event, including travel to and from the designated place of departure. The adults-in-charge could be the respective National Organiser, or someone appointed by them.

## **The Jury**

A Jury of 20 to 25 international scientists/engineers/researchers/innovators/academics is appointed by the Commission to evaluate the competing projects and award the contest's prizes.

## **The Student Helpers**

The Host Organiser appoints Student Helpers to assist with the setting up of the exhibition stands and the logistics of managing the teams of contestants including chaperoning etc.

## **C. Host organiser responsibilities and expenses**

The competition is funded by the Horizon Europe Programme, including all expenses related to the travel and accommodation of the participants, as well as all costs pertaining to the organisation of the event, including (not exhaustive):

- Day rate of jury members;
- The hiring of a venue for the exhibition that includes:
  - o a large area for the participant stands,
  - o a suitable and private room for the jury to meet (including for their final deliberation meeting), including access to a room with beverages and snacks,
  - o rooms for the host team, commission staff, press and an audio-visual team,
  - o relaxation area for the students and dining facilities;
- Registration and jury software through a licence with a software vendor recommended by the EC;
- Production of printed material;
- Travel and accommodation for contestants<sup>1</sup>, national organisers and jury;
- Local transport;
- Core Prizes and Honorary Prizes;
- Facilities for the Commission, Press and Jury;
- Conception, assembly and dismantling of the stands for contestants including electrical connections, internet connections, etc.;
- Further expenses related to organisational arrangements such as student helpers, souvenirs, badges, etc.;
- Opening ceremony, Award ceremony, press conference;
- Final closing party.

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<sup>1</sup> Except for participants from countries with a Science and Technology Agreement with the EU.

The Host Organiser is encouraged to mobilise additional resources to support the event, including monetary and in-kind sponsorships.

## **D. General timeline**

National science fairs, from which EUCYS finalists are selected, take place over the course of the academic year preceding EUCYS.

The contest takes place in a single European city, in the third quarter of the year, customarily in early autumn. This time of the year was selected as the most convenient to bring students and the jury together, and the least disruptive to the academic year for all those involved.

Registration for EUCYS opens in the May before the contest and has two closing dates (according to the host organisers capacity):

- Early to mid-June for contestants and National Organisers/Adults-in-charge to register and;
- Mid to end of June for all project materials to be submitted.

This allows host organisers to start preparing transport and accommodation while giving students more time to prepare their projects.

The jury start their work online over the summer and finish it on site.

## **D. Selection of participants – Criteria**

Contestants are eligible to participate if they have won first prize at their national science competition and have been designated by their local jury to present their project at EUCYS.

Contestants must be less than 21 years of age on the last day of the month of September but more than 14 years of age on the first day of the month of September.

Contestants can enter individual projects or be part of a team of up to 3 participants.

Projects are accepted from all scientific fields and consist of a written report and display material.

EUCYS National Organisers registers contestants. Specialist software is used to check eligibility.

Possible participating countries:

- Member States of the European Union and the European Schools;
- Countries associated to Horizon Europe;
- Neighbourhood Countries with EU bilateral Science and Technology agreements;
- Guest countries with a bilateral Science and Technology agreement<sup>2</sup>.

Guest countries pay their own expenses to participate at EUCYS. On average around 40 countries participate at EUCYS each year of which around 5 are guest countries.

The European Commission publishes an updated list of eligible countries at the beginning of each year.

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<sup>2</sup> Participation costs for guest countries with a bilateral Science and Technology agreement are not covered by the EU grant.

## **F. Prizes**

Contestants are awarded core monetary prizes, honorary prizes and special donated prizes. The core monetary prizes are funded to the total amount of EUR 70 000. The honorary prizes include participation at the Stockholm International Youth Science Seminar (SIYSS) for two winners and the London International Youth Science Forum (LIYSF) for two winners. These prestigious events are also financed with the grant and include flights, accommodation and participation fees.

Special Donated Prizes are customarily awarded by important national and European research organisations, including 8 important European research infrastructures (CERN, ESO, ESA, ESRF, ILL, EMBL, EuXFel and EUROFUSION JET) as well as CBE JU in Belgium, CNIC in Madrid, the European Chemical Society EuChemS, the Bulgarian Coding and Mathematics Summer School, EXPO-Sciences Luxembourg, International Swiss Talent Forum, the London International Youth Science Forum (LIYSF) and the Stockholm International Youth Science Seminar (SIYSS).

The European Commission will provide the organisers with the contact details for the Special Donated Prizes.

Subject to the Commission's approval, the organisers may additionally offer sponsored prizes that are not financed through the grant.

## **G. More information**

Contest website: [https://research-and-innovation.ec.europa.eu/funding/funding-opportunities/eucys\\_en](https://research-and-innovation.ec.europa.eu/funding/funding-opportunities/eucys_en)

Highlight videos:

2022 Leiden: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=dukQA8FaMQ8>

2024 Katowice: [https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=jYJu3F\\_rgzY&t=2s](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=jYJu3F_rgzY&t=2s)