



## RULES & ELIGIBILITY OF THE YOUNG INVENTORS PRIZE

Launched by the EPO in 2022, the Young Inventors Prize acknowledges and rewards young innovators worldwide working towards a more sustainable future for us all, inspiring the inventors of the future and raising awareness amongst the younger generations about the importance of IP rights in achieving this common goal.

### Eligibility criteria:

- This prize is open to any national, regardless of the nationality. Citizens of EPC (European Patent Convention) & non-EPC countries are welcome to submit nominations for the Young Inventors Prize.
- Public/published initiatives comprising a technological concept: the initiative shall comprise a solution in one of the fields of technology. Only initiatives and supporting information which is already public or published will be accepted.
- [United Nations Sustainable Development Goals](#) related applications: the initiative shall aim at solving a problem within the frame of one or more of the 17 United Nations Sustainable Development Goals using technology.
- Maximum age at the time of the award of 30 years old: participants will be eligible as long as they have a maximum age of 30 years old at the time of the award ceremony. There is no minimum age requirement for participants, minors can therefore also participate.
- Previous Tomorrow Shapers and winners of the extraordinary prizes of Young Inventor Prize are ineligible for selection in future editions.

Any concept, prototype, working invention or commercialized product in any field of technology which is supported by written or audio-visual material is to be considered as an “initiative” in the context of the Young Inventors Prize.

### Submission of entries

- Applicants must submit their entries using the online application form accessible on the EPO website [www.epo.org/nominate](http://www.epo.org/nominate).
- Entries may be submitted either on the candidate's own drive or by any other person, entity or institution that wishes to propose a candidate.
- The period for submission of entries is from 9 July to 27 September 2024.
- There is no entry fee.
- Entries that do not include the required information specified in the rules will not be accepted. Applicants will be informed about rejection accordingly.

- The organiser may request evidence of the complementary information included in the entry form.
- The submission of an entry implies full and unconditional acceptance of all rules.
- Applicants considered a minor under their national legislation, must also submit together with the nomination form, the granting of rights and declaration of parental consent form document.
- The same applicant can submit more than one entry, but these have to be done as separate applications.

## Competition

- The Young Inventors Prize (hereinafter “the Prize”) features up to ten “Tomorrow Shapers” selected by the independent jury. Three of these Tomorrow Shapers will be respectively selected by the jury members as winners of the extraordinary prizes “World Builders” (young innovators contributing to a better, more sustainable future), “Community Healers” (young innovators working to heal the wrongs of the world) and “Nature Guardians” (young innovators protecting our ecosystems and the flora and fauna that live therein). Furthermore, an additional prize “People’s Choice” will be awarded based on public voting through the dedicated website.
- A Tomorrow Shaper may only be selected by the jury members as winner of one extraordinary prize. The same Tomorrow Shaper, however, can be winner of one of the extraordinary prizes and the People’s Choice prize at the same time.
- The nominated Tomorrow Shapers will be asked by email to confirm their acceptance of the nomination and consent to the Prize.
- A list of these Tomorrow Shapers will be published on the official competition website and in other publications relating to the Prize.
- The Tomorrow Shapers will be invited to the Young Inventors Prize ceremony. It may be an online or hybrid ceremony. More information on when and where it will take place will be announced in due time and form.
- If applicable, travel and accommodation costs will be borne by the organiser.
- Each of the ten Tomorrow Shapers will receive a certificate and a monetary prize of EUR 5 000. In addition, each of the three winners of the extraordinary prizes will receive an additional EUR 15 000, a trophy and a winner’s certificate. The winner of the People’s Choice will receive an additional EUR 5 000.
- The Top 10 Tomorrow Shapers will be featured on the Young Inventors Prize page and other EPO website, as well as in other EPO internal and external channels. They will also be featured in newsletters, other promotional and multimedia material published for disseminating information about the Prize and their nomination. Information on the company, the inventors and the selected invention and if applicable its patent will also be included in press dossiers for specialised press and media and may be used for other promotional activities organised by the Office. Nevertheless, in case one of the winners of the Young Inventors Prize is a minor, additional measures to safeguard minor’s rights are to be taken and the processing of data is to be restricted according to the [data protection statement](#) of the competition.

## **Jury and evaluation criteria**

- The independent jury that assesses proposals for the Young Inventors Prize consists of a designated Jury Chair and inventors who are all former finalists of the European Inventor Award or Young Inventors Prize. The jury will consider the following hierarchy when evaluating the supportive documentation submitted with the nominated initiatives (listed in order of importance):
  1. IP documents: granted patents/utility models, patent/utility model applications, trademarks, copyright, etc.
  2. Scientific publications: published scientific papers, university/PhD theses, scientific articles, case studies, etc.
  3. Other written or audio-visual published material: business plans, reports, videos, summaries, one-pagers, books, publications, websites, blogs, drawings/sketches, etc.
- The evaluation will be performed on the basis of originality and innovativeness of the proposal, potential or proven technological impact, potential or proven benefit to society and potential or proven impact on UN Sustainable Development Goals.

## **Intellectual Property disclosure**

- In the event of being selected as Tomorrow Shaper, they agree to cooperate with the organiser of the Young Inventors Prize by providing access to the press and other media for interviews or for the photographing or filming of the winner, their invention and the company.
- The organiser reserves the right to publish Tomorrow Shapers' and winners' initiatives and related information on its website and in promotional material (publications, exhibition media, etc.) without remuneration for the Tomorrow Shapers.
- The organiser also reserves the right to record and publish videos and pictures from the award ceremony without remuneration for the Tomorrow Shapers.

## **Waiver of responsibility**

- To apply for the Young Inventors Prize, applicants are asked to only provide information that has already been disclosed to the public about their initiative. In case applicants think that their initiative may be eligible for patent protection, they are responsible for analysing the consequences and disadvantages of disclosing for the first time to the public important information that would give them this possibility. Furthermore, they are responsible to take the necessary steps to ensure that their participation in the Prize will not compromise these rights. Therefore, the European Patent Office is not liable if a patent application has not been filed prior to the disclosure of such information.
- The Young Inventors Prize acknowledges and rewards the work done by younger generations in the field of sustainability, but it does not in any case constitute a statement of patentability. The pursuit of a patent application runs under the provisions of the EPC and is to be assessed independently by examining and opposition divisions. Hence, a selection for the Young Inventors Prize which is done by an independent international jury has no bearing on the patent granting or opposition processes. No claims, rights or expectations may be derived from

participation in the Young Inventors Prize, or from any form of acknowledgment or reward in connection with the Young Inventors Prize.

- In the event of force majeure or if circumstances so dictate, the organiser reserves the right to suspend, postpone or cancel the Prize at any time and without prior notice; in this event, Tomorrow Shapers understand and accept not be entitled to claim compensation.

## **Data protection**

Protecting your privacy is of the utmost importance to the European Patent Office (EPO). We are committed to protecting your personal data and ensuring respect for data subjects' rights when performing our tasks and providing our services. All data of a personal nature that identify you directly or indirectly will be processed lawfully, fairly and with due care.

The processing operations described below are subject to the EPO Data Protection Rules ([DPR](#)).

The information in this statement is provided in accordance with Articles 16 and 17 DPR

For further information about the European Inventor Award please read the [data protection statement](#).