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BIKE-HEI Innovation & Entrepreneurship Award – 3rd Edition

Call for application

 **CONSORTIUM**

 Universitat d'Alacant
Universidad de Alicante

UNIVERSITY OF ALICANTE
ALICANTE | SPAIN

 UNIVERSITÄT
DES SAARLANDES

UNIVERSITÄT DES SAARLANDES
SAARBRÜCKEN | GERMANY



UNIVERSITY OF PRIMORSKA
KOPER | SLOVENIA

 Mariupol University

MARIUPOL STATE UNIVERSITY
KYIV | UKRAINE

 **META**
knowledge to market

META GROUP
ROMA | ITALY

 **cesie**
the world is only one innovation

CESIE
PALERMO | ITALY

 The Association of
Balkan Eco-Innovation

THE ASSOCIATION OF
BALKAN ECO INNOVATIONS
NOVI SAD | SERBIA

Associated
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FUNDACIÓN PARQUE CIENTÍFICO DE ALICANTE
DE LA COMUNITAT VALENCIANA
ALICANTE | SPAIN

BIKE-HEI Innovation & Entrepreneurship Award 2026 (3rd edition) – Call for Applicants

After the success of its 1st and 2nd edition, the BIKE-HEI Consortium is proud to present the **3rd Innovation & Entrepreneurship Award**, supported by EIT Raw Materials.

BIKE-HEI – Boosting Innovation and Knowledge in European Higher Education Institutions is an initiative co-funded by the EIT Raw Materials that supports universities in becoming key actors of innovation ecosystems. By enhancing institutional capacities, fostering entrepreneurship, and supporting the creation of start-ups and spin-offs, BIKE-HEI empowers higher education institutions to drive change in priority areas such as Artificial Intelligence, Climate Action, and the Green Economy ([Learn more](#)).

For this reason, we want to invite **students, researchers, staff, and alumni from our partner HEIs** (the University of Alicante & Alicante Science Park, Saarland University, Mariupol State University, the University of Primorska) **and their ecosystems** to present their **entrepreneurial initiatives to us**. The Award aims to highlight and support the **most promising early-stage start-ups and spin-offs focused on artificial intelligence, climate and environmental solutions, and green or circular economy innovations**.

This initiative is part of BIKE-HEI's broader effort to support institutional transformation through innovation, and to provide tailored services to new ventures emerging from higher education institutions.

What the Award Offers

- A €2000 prize for the recipients of the BIKE-HEI Innovation & Entrepreneurship Award;
- Possibility to take part in the BIKE-HEI Final Conference at the University of Primorska in the first quarter of 2027 (travel budget included);
- Mentorship and tailored growth support from innovation experts within the BIKE Hub;
- Promotion of your initiative across BIKE-HEI and EIT ecosystems;
- Visibility through the BIKE Hub, including a success story feature;
- Opportunity to pitch your project at BIKE-HEI-related events;
- Eligibility for future acceleration programmes.

Who Can Apply?

You are eligible to apply if:

- You are a student, researcher, staff member, or alumnus/alumna from one of the following BIKE-HEI Consortium institutions:
 - University of Alicante & Alicante Science Park

- Saarland University
 - University of Primorska
 - Mariupol State University
 - Other institutions who are part of the abovementioned institutions ecosystems can participate
- **Your venture/project is:**
 - In an early stage of development and have a minimum viable product (MVP). Start-ups and spin-offs must have been established for less than 5 years. Projects that are not yet formally registered or established are also eligible, provided they have a minimum viable product.
- Your initiative is thematically **aligned with at least two of the following:**
 - Artificial Intelligence
 - Climate or environmental solutions
 - Green or circular economy

Application process

Applications will be registered through Microsoft Forms (Link available [here](#)) and materials will be sent to info@bike-hub.eu. Applicants must submit:

1. **A completed online form** (including project description and motivation)
2. **A project summary** (PDF format – 5 pages max)
3. **A 5-slide pitch deck** (PPT format – 5 slides max) – audiovisual material not exceeding 3 minutes can be included

You must use the official templates provided below:

- Project Summary Template (Word format; must be saved as PDF): **Download Annex 1**
- Pitch Deck Template (PowerPoint format): **Download Annex 2**

Note: applications sent directly to info@bike-hub.eu without filling in the registration form linked above will not be considered.

Deadline for submission: 30th of October

Once each winner per HEI institution has been declared, recipients will be sent an e-mail confirming the success of their application. The applicant, will then have a **3-day period to give their availability to receive the prize and accept the Award.** If the candidates reject the prize or do not respond within the given limit, the jury will proceed with selecting other suitable candidates.

Evaluation Criteria

The evaluation process is built to be fair, transparent, and proportionate to the volume of applications received. At the time in which the applications will be closed, **a jury made up of three representatives of each HEI partner institution** will rate the candidates. Final scores are averaged, and top scorers are selected. The candidates with the most points will be awarded as the winner. During this edition, **each university will nominate only one recipient per institution**, for a total of **4 winners**.

Score structure

For each shortlisted venture in Phase 2, Consortium members will have to rate the following criteria from 1 to 5 (*1=insufficient; 2=below expectations; 3=sufficient; 4=good; 5=excellent*):

- Innovation
- Societal and environmental impact
- Feasibility and scalability
- Team capacity
- Thematic relevance
- Team diversity

In the event of a tie, the candidate with the most points in the “Innovation” criterion will be deemed as the winner.

Confidentiality, Security, and Ethical Standards

The BIKE-HEI Innovation & Entrepreneurship Award organizers are committed to protecting the confidentiality of all information provided by applicants during the application and evaluation process. All personal and project-related information submitted will be treated as confidential and shared only with the evaluation committee members.

Any data collected will not be disclosed to third parties without explicit consent from the applicant, except as required by law. Applicants are encouraged to mark any proprietary or sensitive information as confidential within their submissions.

The evaluation committee will take all necessary precautions to prevent unauthorized access to any confidential materials. In addition, applicants must demonstrate personal and professional integrity to be eligible for the award. Submissions associated with unethical content, misleading claims, or illegal activities will be excluded from the selection process.

Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ)

Can I apply alone or as a team?

Yes. Both individual applicants and teams (up to 6 members) are eligible.

What language should the documents be in?

All documents and materials must be submitted in English.

Can I submit two PDF files or two PPT decks?

No. File uploading must always **take into account the following composition**: PDF file + PPT.

It will not be possible to just upload 2 PPTs or 2 PDFs.

How can I know I have submitted all the materials?

The Microsoft forms will send feedback upon your candidacy to confirm that everything has been submitted. We suggest to click "Save response" button on the "thank you" page to retrieve your form and have confirmation it has been submitted.

Where will the winning projects be published?

On the BIKE Hub, EIT Raw Materials platforms, LinkedIn, and other communication channels of the consortium.

Contact

For any questions or technical issues, contact: info@bike-hub.eu

Website: <https://bike-hub.eu>

Follow us on [LinkedIn](#) and [Instagram](#) for updates and announcements.