



SOCIAL IMPACT AWARD 2017 – Submission Guidelines

The competition

The Social Impact Award is an idea competition for students that want to initiate social or environmental change in a constructive way. Its mission is to promote the knowledge and practice of social entrepreneurship among students in Europe. Social Entrepreneurship in our view describes creative, entrepreneurial action, focused on a social or environmental issue.

The Institute for Entrepreneurship and Innovation at the Vienna University of Economics and Business founded the Social Impact Award in 2009 and is coordinated by Impact Hub Vienna with local partners in Austria, Bosnia & Herzegovina, Croatia, Czech Republic, Greece, Macedonia, Montenegro, Romania, Russia, Serbia, and Slovakia. It offers all participants a free workshop-series for supporting the birth of your project idea, knowledge resources and an opportunity to get in touch with your local social entrepreneurship community. Finalists further receive access to a summer incubation program. Winners receive a scholarship and ongoing support. In Austria, there will be a total of 5 winning projects (see below). The Social Impact Award Austria is carried out by **Impact Hub Vienna**, a space for meeting, innovation, and entrepreneurship.

The award addresses students eager to try to solve current social/environmental problems in an innovative way by founding projects, initiatives, or organizations. The projects can be rooted in different fields, such as poverty reduction, health, education, environment, energy, information and communication technologies, human rights, equal opportunities, care, and many others.

Submitted projects can be organized as part of civil society (NGO, NPO, association, initiatives) as well as in the private sector as social business: whether a mobile soup kitchen for homeless people, a new educational concept, a website to mobilize the neighbourhood, a new fundraising idea, or something totally new – the important thing is that your project pursues a social/environmental goal.

Find an overview of the best projects from previous years here:

<http://www.socialimpactaward.net/book-of-inspiration>.



Timeline

The call for applications for the Social Impact Award 2017 is open between January 19, 2017 and May 2, 2017 at 6pm. Projects are submitted online at <http://socialimpactaward.at/einreichen>.

During the submission period, there are workshops offered to the general public, which are free of charge to all participants. These workshops offer interested persons the opportunity to learn more about social entrepreneurship and to experience different stages of project development from idea generation through project planning. The workshop period in Austria starts with the Kick-off event on January 19 and continues with workshops across the country. Anyone interested is warmly welcome at all workshops. Participation is especially recommended to applicants, but not a prerequisite to apply for the Award.

The 10 Austrian finalists are announced in a special event at May 18, 2017 at Impact Hub Vienna. After the incubation program over summer the award ceremony of the Social Impact Award will take place on September 28, 2017. Winning projects will be identified through a multilevel evaluation process.

Conditions for participation

The applications for the Social Impact Award 2017 are liable to the following conditions:

- Individual Applicants: Every student of an Austrian university qualifies to apply if he/she wants to found or has recently founded a project or business with a social goal. Applicants are required to provide their active (valid in winter term 2016/2017 and/or summer term 2017) registration number from an Austrian university, university of applied science, or institution similar to university.
- Team Applications: For team applications 50% of the founders have to be students of an Austrian university. Here again, an active (valid in winter term 2016/2017 and/or summer term 2017) registration number from an Austrian university or similar institution is necessary.
- Application is open for ideas not yet implemented as well as projects in the early state of implementation. Implemented projects can only be submitted if their founding date occurred after January 1, 2016.
- Any submitted projects must not have received significant formal start-up support before the submission date. As such, we understand formalized monetary support by an external party or external parties exceeding 3.000 € in value (e.g. angel investment, grants, prize money etc.).



- Projects submitted in previous years, excepting previous winning projects, can be resubmitted in 2017 as long as they fulfill all other requirements.
- In the evaluation process, only those projects can be considered that additionally fulfill all formal participation criteria, listed below.
- Only those applications can be considered, which are complete and have been submitted through our website by May 2, 2017 at 6pm.
- The 10 finalists projects receive:
 - **Workspace** at Impact Hub Vienna (Workspace from June to September 2017)
 - **Professional support** by the Accelerator Program from from June to September)
 - **Pocket Money** (200 € to realize first project steps)
 - **Production of a short project video**
- Out of the 10 finalists 5 winners of the Social Impact Award 2017 are selected. The winners receive:
 - **4 Jury Awards: 3.000 €** (paid in three parts in October, November, and December)
 - **1 Community Award: 2.000 €** (as well paid in October, November, and December)
 - **Free access to the SIA Summit** taking place in Vienna from 1st to 3rd of November 2017 with all SIA winners 2017 from all countries, where SIA takes place (participation is obligatory for all winners, 1 member per team)
 - **Networking** with later-stage support programs of the [Accelerator Program](#) of Impact Hub Vienna

Formal criteria for application

The application for SIA 2017 must be carried out via our application platform on <http://socialimpactaward.at/einreichen>. The application can either be in German or English. On the platform at least all obligatory fields must be filled in. There is also the option of uploading additional files on the platform (please consider the maximal data volume).

Evaluation process

The nomination of the winning projects of the Social Impact Award 2016 is carried out in different phases:

Screening

In the first evaluation phase, the project documents go through a pre-selection by the Social Impact Award screening team, resulting in a shortlist of projects.

The screening team in 2016 will consist of:



- **Jonas Dinger**, WU Wien
- **Nina Resch**, WU Wien
- **Nicole Traxler**, ERSTE Foundation
- **Peter Vandor**, Founder Social Impact Award, WU Wien
- **Bernhard Hofer**, Talentify.me
- **Hannah Lux**, Vollpension
- **Lena Robinson**, Three Coins
- **Jakob Detering**, Social Impact Award Austria
- **Christine Spornbauer**, Impact Hub Vienna
- **Lena Gansterer**, Impact Hub Vienna

Note: This list is subject to change. Foreseeable changes will be reflected in a newer version of this document. In case of illness or other unforeseeable events, changes may not be accurately reflected.

Interviews

The respective project teams will be contacted in the second evaluation phase and invited to a short interview between May 2 and May 6, 2016. Preferably, these talks will take place in person in the Impact Hub Vienna. If this is not possible, interviews may be conducted via a Skype video call. The purpose of the interviews is to get to know the project teams better and to verify that teams are aware of all the requirements on their part in case they are winners.

Jury Voting (finalists)

After the interviews, a group of shortlisted applications will be selected. The list will be forwarded to the members of the expert local jury, who will rank the project ideas according to the criteria defined below. The 10 highest rated projects will be awarded as Social Impact Award Finalist 2016, winning an incubation ticket (see below).

Decisions are taken in closed sessions and are non-contestable. The finalists will be announced at a special event at the Impact Hub Vienna at May 19, 2016.

The 2016 Social Impact Award Jury in Austria is made up of the following experts:

- **Barbara Coudenhove**, Industriellenvereinigung
- **Michael Fembek**, Essl Foundation
- **Roman H. Mesicek**, FH Krems
- **Michael Meyer**, WU Wien
- **Florian Pomper**, Caritas Wien
- **Judith Pühringer**, bdv Austria
- **Franz-Karl Prüller**, ERSTE Stiftung
- **Georg Schön**, Ashoka Österreich



- **Gabriele Tatzberger**, Wirtschaftsagentur Wien
- **Katharina Turnauer**, Katharina Turnauer Privatstiftung
- **Peter Vandor**, WU Vienna

Note: This list is subject to change. Foreseeable changes will be reflected in a newer version of this document. In case of illness or other unforeseeable events, changes may not be accurately reflected.

Incubation

All finalists receive an incubation ticket. This ticket gives them access to a 4-month incubation program from June to September 2016. The ticket comprises:

- **Workspace** at Impact Hub Vienna (Workspace 50 in the value of 440 € from June to September 2016)
- **Professional support** by the Accelerator Program (from June to September)
- **Pocket Money** (200 € to realize first project steps)
- **Production of a short project video**

Participation in the incubation program is mandatory for all finalists.

Jury Voting (winners)

On the basis of finalists' progress over summer the members of the expert local jury will rank the project ideas according to the criteria defined below. The 4 highest rated projects will be awarded with the Social Impact Award 2016, winning 3.000 € per team and free access to the SIA Europe Summit.

Decisions are taken in closed sessions and are non-contestable. The winners will be announced at the Award Ceremony at the Impact Hub Vienna at September 29, 2016.

As mentioned above, the 2016 Social Impact Award Jury in Austria is made up of the following experts:

- **Barbara Coudenhove**, Industriellenvereinigung
- **Michael Fembek**, Essl Foundation
- **Roman H. Mesicek**, FH Krems
- **Michael Meyer**, WU Wien
- **Florian Pomper**, Caritas Wien
- **Judith Pühringer**, bdv Austria
- **Franz-Karl Prüller**, ERSTE Stiftung
- **Georg Schön**, Ashoka Österreich
- **Gabriele Tatzberger**, Wirtschaftsagentur Wien
- **Katharina Turnauer**, Katharina Turnauer Privatstiftung
- **Peter Vandor**, WU Vienna



Note: This list is subject to change. Foreseeable changes will be reflected in a newer version of this document. In case of illness or other unforeseeable events, changes may not be accurately reflected.

Community voting

One additional award will be given on the basis of online community voting. Finalist projects will be presented in short videos on the Social Impact Award website and on our YouTube channel. During the voting period, fans of the Social Impact Award will be able to vote for their favourite project online. The project that receives the most votes will be awarded the final Social Impact Award Stipend. You are encouraged to invite your family, friends, colleagues and business partners to support you by going on the website and voting for the projects they see as most promising. This way you can increase the awareness for your projects as well as for the many other worthy causes submitted.

It is not possible to win two Social Impact Awards. Should a project win both the community voting and the jury voting it receives the award which is higher endowed. If both awards are endowed equally it wins the Community Award and the Jury Award will be given to the next-highest ranked project as per jury voting.

Furthermore, please consider that participants of the community voting as well as their supporters are obliged to use and communicate the voting in the intended, ethical way. This includes but is not limited to the following rules:

- You should not ask your community to vote to the detriment of other projects
- You should not provide direct incentives - monetary, material, or otherwise - to encourage voting
- You should not vote on behalf of other people
- You should not vote using fake emails
- You should not create or use programs that automate the voting process

The Social Impact Award team reserves the right to disqualify projects on suspicion of voting process manipulation. Decisions in the evaluation process are non-contestable.

Evaluation criteria

The following criteria will be used to evaluate your project by the screening-team and the expert jury.

1. Social Impact

- 1.1. What is the value the project provides to its target group and to society?
What is the impact the project generates for its beneficiaries and for society?
- 1.2. How relevant are the project's goals in society?
How complex is the problem the project wants to solve?



- 1.3. Is the concept scalable i.e. is it capable of being transferred to other markets or target groups without losing efficiency or level of performance?
Is it planned to scale the project?

2. Innovation

- 2.1. Are novel means and methods used to reach the project's goals?
Does the idea focus on a novel or disregarded problem?
- 2.2. Are the deployed means suitable to solve the addressed problems and do they exceed current solutions?

3. Feasibility

- 3.1. Does the project seem to be realistically implementable?
- 3.2. Are there precise goals and actions planned and are they comprehensible? Has the project team thought about long-term perspectives?
- 3.3. Has the project team thought about mobilizing other persons, marketing, PR and cooperation with other organisations?
- 3.5. Has the founding team the necessary financial resources to implement the project or do they have a plan on how to achieve them?

4. Team

- 4.1. Do the project's founders seem to be able to seriously run the project and use a Social Impact Award support in a meaningful way?
- 4.2. Has the founding team the necessary resources (know-how, skills, experience) to implement the project or do they have a plan on how to achieve them?



FAQs

→ I am not sure if my idea is good enough to apply. What should I do?

Definitely apply! You cannot lose anything when participating in the Social Impact Award, and the workshops and contact with other students will help you to concretize your idea. Especially if your idea is still very young, the award offers you a good opportunity to let it grow.

And even ideas in a very early stage of development have the chance to win a Social Impact Award Stipend – as long as they are good and well thought through and you show that you/your team can and will implement it.

→ I do not have an idea, but I am interested in the topic and the competition. Can I still come to the workshops, the kick-off event or the award ceremony, even without registration?

Yes! Come on by and join us at all Social Impact Award events. Every workshop, the kick-off event, and the award ceremony are free of charge, and we warmly welcome all interested persons. Registration is not mandatory, though we would appreciate it as it helps us in planning. We are happy to receive your confirmation of participation on Eventbrite.

→ What happens after the submission of my project idea?

All rights on your application remain of course with you. We will publish your short description on our website and save it in our communication and media documents, so that your idea can inspire other students and other people (press, potential partners, volunteers) may become aware of your project. All rights to the submissions remain of course with the submitting team.

→ When are the winning projects announced?

The announcement of the awarded projects is going to take place at the Award Ceremony on September 28, 2017. All further details will be announced in advance at www.socialimpactaward.at.

→ Am I allowed to submit more than one project?

The application of more than one project by one single person or team is valid. However, each application has to comprise a clearly defined project and to be complete in the submitted documents (have a look at the formal criteria of application).



→ Which responsibilities do I take if I win a Social Impact Award Finalist Ticket?

If you are one of the finalists of the award, you have the responsibility to dedicate most of your summer (June-September 2016) to your project. This includes – according to the stage of your project's development – the development of a business model and a concept, first prototypes of your idea, and first steps towards implementation. The Social Impact Award enables you as a finalist to dedicate yourself intensively to your project and take big steps in a short time.

Additionally we offer you a working space with office infrastructure and access to a worldwide network of social entrepreneurs. This is done through a membership at Impact Hub Vienna and is accessible to you during the summer months of June to September 2016. During that period you are also required to report your developments regularly to the Social Impact Award team. In this way, you are able to present your project and its progress to other students and potential future partners and supporters.

→ Which responsibilities do I take if I win the Social Impact Award?

As a winner of Social Impact Award you further commit yourself to participate in the SIA Europe Summit in October 2016 to present the further developments of your project during the summer months in front of the whole international community. Here again you have the opportunity to inspire others and convince them of your project.

The monetary part of the prize is transferred to you in three parts at the beginning of the months October, November, December 2016 upon proof that you are actively working on the project.

→ I have no time during the summer months 2016. Can I still apply?

Even if you are not able to dedicate the summer to your project during the summer, you can still benefit from applying to the Social Impact award. Your project will be published on <http://socialimpactaward.at> and presented to the general public. Furthermore, you can benefit from the workshops and the valuable input for the development of your project idea. However, you are not eligible to receive one of the Social Impact Award Finalist Tickets, as these are reserved for those projects and project teams that are able to work on their ideas during the summer months.

If you have further questions, please visit <http://socialimpactaward.at>, our Facebook page or contact us directly via our online contact form.

Submitters acknowledge that they comply with the rules of competition and accept the decisions of the pre-selection team and jury.