

Regulations and additional information

The objective of the BIG-Cluster Global Biobased Business competition (G-BiB) for Master and PhD students is to stimulate entrepreneurship and innovation in the field of production of a biorenewable chemical, material and/or fuel product. Students are being stimulated to participate in mixed teams.

1. Participants

- 1.1. Students from universities, universities of applied sciences and university colleges (hereafter referred to as university) in Germany and Belgium can participate in this competition in teams of minimum 2 students.
- 1.2. During this competition (from February 2019 to September 2019) participants must be registered as students, enrolled in a Bachelor, Master or PhD program.
- 1.3. Students from all programs are allowed to participate, there is no restriction in topic or area. Participants are in fact encouraged to establish teams with students from different areas since a business plan requires a multidisciplinary approach.
- 1.4. Participants have to work with a Professor or PostDoc from their university. This mentor should be clearly identified when subscribing to participate in the competition and in the final submission (but cannot be a participant).
- 1.5. To participate in the competition, the team must register, free of charge, by filling in the online form on the website: <https://www.bigc-initiative.eu/gbib-registration.php>. Information required includes name and email of the participants, Bachelor/Master/PhD program including the university where the participants are registered, the name and email of the university mentor and a short description of the business idea. Applications that are (i) submitted in any manner other than as specified; (ii) submitted after the deadline; (iii) incomplete, forged, defective, or irregular in any way or not in compliance with these regulations will be disqualified. BIG-Cluster will select the teams per

country/region to participate in the competition. Criteria for selection are the evaluation criteria stated under 2.4 and based on the short description of business idea given in the registration. The selection will be final and no correspondence will be entered into regarding the selection. The selected teams will be announced and informed ultimately 25 March 2019.

- 1.6. After entering the competition (article 1.5) teams (represented by at least 2 of their student members and their university mentor) will have to participate in the kick-off meeting, the Masterclass and the semi-final presentation of the businessplans organised by BIG-Cluster. Kick-Off will be held in Duesseldorf, Germany; masterclass and semi-final will be held both in Ghent, Belgium and Duesseldorf, Germany.
- 1.7. The winning teams of the semi-finals (represented by 1 of their students) will have to participate in the final organised by BIG-Cluster in September 2019, in Germany, either live or via video pitch.

2. Jury, evaluation, award

- 2.1. In each participating country BIG-Cluster will organise semi-finals.
- 2.2. A professional jury will be appointed by BIG-Cluster per country. Jury members cannot be involved, in any way, in any of the submissions that the jury will evaluate.
- 2.3. The composition of the jury will not be disclosed before the submission deadline.
- 2.4. The jury's will evaluate all complete final submissions on the following aspects:
 - quality of the proposed design;
 - viability of the business plan;
 - originality of the proposed business idea;
 - sustainability (including environmental, economic and social factors) performance;
 - presentation (in writing) of the plan.
- 2.5. The jury's evaluations will be final and binding and no correspondence will be entered into regarding results and the awarding of the prize.

- 2.6. (A representative of) the two winning regional teams (finalists) will have to attend the international finals in September 2019 in Germany to present their business plan (presentation or video pitch).
- 2.7. A travel budget is available per national winning team, containing economy class transport. The actual, reasonable costs of travel and stay will be reimbursed, based on receipts, with a maximum of 250 EURO per team.
- 2.8. The final award must be used to further elaborate the proposed business idea and/or further develop the entrepreneurship of the involved participant(s). The presentation or video pitch, mentioned in article 2.6 must have a specific proposal how the award will be used.
- 2.9. The final award is provided "as is". Award winners are responsible for paying applicable taxes, if any.
- 2.10. Award winner(s) will permit organizers and sponsors of the competition to use, free of charge, any received personal data, any photos or any contributions linked to the competition to be used in promotional activities relating to the competition and in relation to the announcement of the winner through all media. All IP and know-how in the submitted materials or acquired through the competition remain the property of the original owners and cannot be communicated to the public without prior written consent by one of the team members.
- 2.11. The final award winning team will cooperate in promotional activities to the extent that can be reasonably expected, including publicity regarding the announcements of the winner(s) across all media and regarding the deployment of the award (as mentioned in article 2.8). For cooperating with these promotional activities no financial compensation will be paid.
- 2.12. The final award is personal and not transferable or exchangeable. In case of refusal or non-acceptance of the prize or conditions that are inherent to the competition, the prize will not be awarded. In that case, BIG-Cluster is entitled to select another winner.

3. Submission

3.1. The final submission consists of three elements:

- **A business plan.** A model for this business plan will be provided to registered participants. The business plan cannot exceed 30 pages (A4). Appendixes with additional information are allowed, but consider that the business plan itself should have all necessary information for the evaluation by the jury.
- **An executive summary.** This is a condensed description of the essence of the business plan, the bottom line of what the business idea is all about. This summary should have a clear business proposition, a section on the costs (investment, payback time, etc.), benefits (including social and environmental benefits) and (business) risks. The executive summary cannot exceed 2 pages (A4).
- **Proof of studentship.** For each participant a verifiable proof of studentship should be included (see also article 1.2).

3.2. The final and complete submission must be submitted per email (kriebs@clib-cluster.de) before 01 July 2019, 23.59 CET (Central European Time). Submissions received after this date and time or incomplete submissions will be excluded from the competition.

3.3. All elements of the submission must be written in English and must be provided in commonly used, easily accessible (unsecured) file types, such as PDF.

3.4. The submission should be original and recent work, carried out by the participants themselves and not submitted to any other competition or business challenge or equivalents.

4. General

4.1. Only the organizers and jury of the competition have access to the complete submissions and only for purposes directly related to the competition.

4.2. All IP and know-how in the submitted materials remain the property of the original owners, submission will not result in any transfer of ownership to the organizers, jury and sponsors of the competition.

- 4.3. The organizers of this competition are entitled to, at its discretion and without notice, change or modify these regulations and without giving a reason to discontinue, modify or adapt the competition for reasons of its own without any obligation to compensate any damages on behalf of the participant. Any changes or adaptations within the competition will be communicated to registered participants.
- 4.4. Any participation in the competition implies unreserved acceptance of these regulations by the participant.
- 4.5. Participants can be disqualified when it's believed they are not acting in conformity with the regulations of the competition or if the participant is otherwise fraudulently accessing the competition or unfairly influencing the course of the competition.