Info day - FAQ

held online, 14.05.2021

❖ **Can we get more information with regards to each topic? Is the information regarding topics you provided on Balkathon website boundary or limiting or it is more like directions?**

No, there are no boundaries, these are more like examples in which direction you can go. These are just some of the ideas you can think of for each topic, but other ideas are welcomed.

For example, if we are talking about ideas as regards the Green City, you can discuss with your team the ideas such are reduction of pollution, food waste reduction, water treatment, anything that is linked to green cities.

❖ **Is there a list of eligibility criteria?**

There is a list of eligibility criteria. For each phase of the competition, there is a list of defined criteria, which are explained in more detail in Balkathon Guidelines (section 2.3. Evaluation criteria). The list of criteria that will be used for the first phase is published HERE and include a description for each criteria.

❖ **If I participated in one of the previous competitions organised by RCC, can I apply for Balkathon 2.0?**

If you are not the winning team from any of the previous competitions ogranised by RCC, you can apply to Balkathon 2.0. For clarification, a note with this explanation is added to the Statement of Honor.

❖ **Regarding the evaluation criteria in the first phase, is there a minimum of the scores that the idea needs to win to participate in the competition?**

No, there is no minimum scores. The ideas will be ranked by points they won, and the first 10 ranked ideas for each topic will participate in the second phase of the competition.

❖ **What if there are two ideas with the same score, and the only one can go to the second phase? For example 10th and 11th on the ranking list have the same score?**

In that case, the jury will reevaluate to decide which idea will participate in the competition.

❖ **How I can choose a mentor?**

All participants of the competition will choose a mentor based on the following:

1. All participants will get the list with mentors and time slots, and they will choose the timing of the mentoring session.
2. In case that participants are not sure which mentor to choose, the organiser will propose a suitable mentor.

All sessions will be held online, via the Zoom platform according to a prearranged schedule.

❖ **Will the teams have a presentation of their ideas? Does it have to be in English or can it be in one of the local languages?**

Presentation of the idea is not needed for the first phase of the competition, but will be required after working with mentors. More precisely, after mentoring session, you will need to submit a video presentation of your idea/solution together with a Submission Form that will be provided to you in advance.

All documentation and presentation have to be in English.

❖ **The idea has to be genuine and never implemented before, or is it possible to be an idea adapted for the region?**

Idea/solution that has been implemented, commercially used, published, or promoted will not be accepted.

❖ **Can you please explain 'Profile of the team's composition' document? What exactly should it contain?**

Profile of the team should include a list of all members of the team and their CVs, outlining relevant knowledge and experience, including contact details (e-mail, LinkedIn, website), with Statement of team members agreeing to be represented by their team leader. Profile of the team composition should be submitted by a team leader. During the competition, RCC will communicate with the team leader of the team.

❖ **Are the ideas that include the upgrade of the existing solutions eligible to participate?**

If you are offering a new service, then your idea is eligible.

❖ **Is it an advantage to have a project which is in two categories, both green cities, and smart cities?**

Each idea has to be categorised and during the registration the topic you are applying for has to be chosen. Having a cross-cutting idea is welcome, but the topic you are applying for has to be defined.

❖ **How detailed do we need to be with presenting the idea? Do we need to have a complete plan of developing the idea or not?**

To apply for the Balkathon competition you will have to prepare a Concept note (section 1.7. Application documents), where you can explain your idea/solution (purpose, structure, implementation, etc.), and it doesn't have to be described in technical detail. You do not have to have a complete development plan for the first phase, but you will have to work on it during the second phase.

❖ **The applicant should initially have only the idea to be implemented (project idea for the specific field) or should they also have the planned innovation/solution technically developed?**

Both proposals are acceptable. If you have a new idea from the region that is under Balkathon topics you can apply for Balkathon 2.0

❖ **I do not know how to develop my idea from the technical side, are these details needed in the early stage of the application?**

In the first phase we do not need specific details, just to understand the concept of the idea, focus, target groups, benefit for the region. But for the further phase and potential implementation a team should have a developer that will work on the development of the solution.

❖ **Regarding the stage of the development of the idea that we are applying with, do the ideas that have already started with development have the advantage comparing to the ideas that did not start with development?**

No, there is no advantage. This information you will provide when applying and it is needed so as you can get better mentoring support.

❖ **If there is somewhere in the world a similar idea implemented, will I be disqualified from the competition?**

In case you copy the existing solutions, you are going to be disqualified. In case that your solution is similar to the existing ones, but not the same, you are not going to be disqualified.

❖ **Does the idea that I am applying with need to be implemented in all economies of Western Balkans, or I am starting with one economy and continue with implementation in other economies?**

About the implementation, you start with one economy, and continue to include others. The implementation does not need to start in all economies at the same time.

❖ **What if I fail in the development of my idea in six months?**

The Agreement/Statement between RCC and the winner will define the procedure whereby the first instalment of the prize will be awarded immediately, while the second one after the development of the solution. If the winning team fails to develop the solution in six months, they will not get the second installment.

❖ **If I need support from the local or central government authority to implement my solution, will I get any kind of support?**

Having in mind that RCC is a regional organisation that cooperates with authorities from all WB economies at different levels, RCC will endeavor to provide support to implement your solution.

❖ **In case of winning the prize, what kind of documentation the winning team needs to deliver?**

All obligations will be defined by the Agreement/Statement between RCC and the winner.

❖ **Is there a restriction with regards to spending the funds, on which items we can spend the award?**

No, there is no rulebook with regards to the restrictions on spending the funds. The funds will be used for the development of the solution.

❖ **If we need a more funds is there a possibility for their increase?**

No, the winning prizes are 10.000 euro and 7.000 euro for special award, and there is no possibility of getting a higher amount.

❖ **Is it obligatory to use the branding of the RCC and European Union if I win the prize?**

Yes, each developed solution from this competition will be obliged to use RCC and European Union logos.

The promotion will be mutual, the organisers will also promote the winning solutions.

❖ **Can we participate in the competition individually?**

You can apply to Balkathon 2.0 only as a team. The maximum number of team members is 7.

❖ **Could you tell us more about the 6 months of developing the idea? Will we get support from you and what will it look like?**

During the 6 months after the end of the competition you will have the support of a mentor, if needed. Also, the idea/solution will be presented at the most important digital event in the region - the Digital Summit.