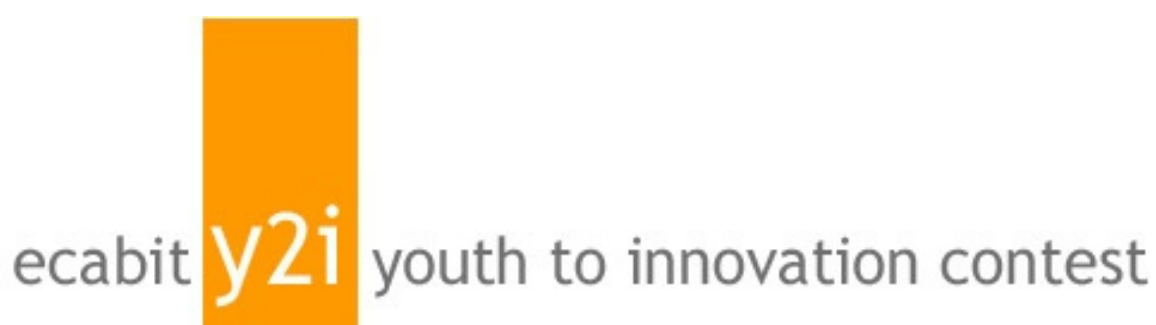


YOUNG INNOVATION DEPARTMENT



Y2I Contest

Guide for applicants

2008

Y2I Contest - Guide for applicants

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infoDev Background¹

A Partnership

infoDev is a partnership of international development agencies, coordinated and served by an expert Secretariat housed in the Global ICT Department (GICT) of the World Bank, one of its key donors and founders. It acts as a neutral convener of dialogue, and as a coordinator of joint action among bilateral and multilateral donors—supporting global sharing of information on ICT for development (ICT4D), and helping to reduce duplication of efforts and investments. *infoDev* also forms partnerships with public and private-sector organizations who are innovators in the field of ICT4D. Priorities and strategies for *infoDev* are guided by a governance framework, approved by *infoDev* Donors in June, 2005.

Committed to Sustainable Development and Poverty Reduction

infoDev's mandate is to help maximize the impact of ICTs in global efforts to achieve the internationally-supported Millennium Development Goals. *infoDev* helps donors and their developing country partners identify ways ICT can contribute to objectives such as improving access, education and health services, making public institutions more efficient and transparent, supporting rural livelihoods, and contributing to economic growth by supporting small and medium-sized enterprises that use ICT for their businesses.

A Leading Resource of Knowledge on ICT for Development

infoDev sponsors cutting-edge research and analysis to help identify global best practice in the use of ICT4D. Research typically begins with a "mapping" exercise to understand "what we know and do not know" in a particular field. This may be followed by analytical research, surveys, evaluation of past experiences and/or the initiation of pilot projects designed to yield further knowledge of the field.

Linking Knowledge and Action

infoDev uses the knowledge it gathers to develop workshops, training seminars, toolkits, handbooks, and briefs to support donors, policy makers and others working in the field of ICT4D who are charged with turning knowledge into action. *infoDev* support assists them in setting policies, designing and implementing programs and projects, undertaking monitoring and evaluation, and building capacity. To perpetuate and strengthen the knowledge/action cycle, *infoDev* incorporates the feedback it receives from such activities to strengthen the knowledge-base and to identify new research opportunities.

¹ Extract from www.infodev.org

infoDev's work focuses on three main themes:

Enabling Access For All

infoDev helps developing countries and their international partners make intelligent choices and develop effective partnerships for enabling access to information infrastructure, applications and services in ways that are sustainable and maximize private investment and leverage public resources where necessary. This includes sponsoring research, toolkits and capacity building on regulation issues, expanding access to broadband, promoting municipal networks, etc.

Mainstreaming ICT As Tools Of Development And Poverty Reduction

Through a rigorous program of field-based experimentation, research, and analysis, *infoDev* helps developing countries and their international partners make smart choices about when and how to deploy ICT as tools of their core development goals in health, education, livelihoods, public sector reform and other areas.

Innovation, Entrepreneurship and Growth

infoDev helps developing countries and the international partners maximize the contribution and impact of the private sector through direct support for ICT-enabled innovation, new business and partnership models and toolkits, and networking among entrepreneurs, private sector investors and the donor community. Our network of over 40 incubators around the developing world provides unique insight into the challenges facing ICT innovators and entrepreneurs in developing countries.

Business Incubation in Eastern Europe and Central Asia (ECA)²

ECA Business Incubators and Technology Parks Network As a region of economies in transition, most ECA member countries' economies have been undergoing a transformation from planned to market economies. Business incubators and technology parks in ECA play a key role in fostering innovation and entrepreneurship. The ECA Network of Business Incubators and Technology Parks was launched in **May 2005 at the ECA regional workshop in Kiev, Ukraine.**

In September 2007, our ECA incubators regional workshop in Yerevan (Armenia) focused on the role of business incubators and technology parks in innovation development and technology transfer in economies in transition.

We invite you to join us!

Our mission ECA incubators and technology parks network aims to add value to its members' activities by fostering and strengthening innovation and entrepreneurship support, exchanging information and knowledge, collaborating among incubators and entrepreneurs in the ECA region and on global level, and disseminating knowledge about national SME and innovation development policies and programs. (ECA Mission Statement, May 2005) ECA members prepared and signed a MEMORANDUM on collaboration and network development in 2005.

² Extract from: www.ecabit.org

Y2I Contest

1. Brief description

The **ECA Contest of Innovative Ideas – Y2I** is aimed to create a favourable environment designed to attract young persons to become actors in innovation. The target is to organise a regional selection of innovative projects under 3 sections:

- Business Innovation
- Technology Innovation
- Commercialisation of Technology.

The applications in the ICT area are considered general priorities, the ICT been the main sector of the infoDev initiative.

The “reward” for the winners will be 3 invitations (full sponsored by infoDev initiative of the World Bank), one for each section, to join the Global Forum of BICs (tentative date is November 2008). The project staff and the Global Forum staff will organise a workshop named **“Young and Innovation”** designed to promote the selected initiative and to put together young innovators and stakeholders.

The winners will have the opportunity to valorise their initiatives into a challenging environment created during the Global Forum of BICs.

All participants in the Y2I Contest, from all participant countries, will be oriented to the Business Incubators, Technological Parks, Business Innovation Centres or other supporting organisations aimed to involve them into the existing structured activities designed to support SMEs and innovation.

2. Aim and specific objectives of the project

Project Y2I aim:

- To create the environment aimed to attract young persons to become actors in innovation

Long term objective:

- To create a favourable environment for young experts designed to support the innovative ideas, and to improve the link among the structured organisation and the potential entrepreneurs. This issue will generate a continuous “inward energy” in the area of Incubation and Innovation, as condition for long term sustainability.

Short term objectives:

- To start an ECA contest designed to youth aimed to identify innovative ideas
- To select 3 applications from the region in the fields of: Business Innovation, Technology Innovation, Commercialisation of Technology
- To organise a WS during the Global Forum of BICs (2008) aimed to join the winners from the Y2I contest and potential donors
- To disseminate the results and experience gained during the Y2I project
- To improve the link among young entrepreneurs and the Business Incubators and Technological Parks

3. Eligibility criteria

Eligibility of applicants:

3.1. The contest Y2I is open for people aged: minimum 18 years old / maximum 30 years old at 15 July 2008 (last day of proposal submission).

3.2. The participants can act individual or in groups. In case of groups of participants all members have to fulfil the rule of age (3.1).

Eligibility of countries:

3.3. The participants must have the residence in one of the ECA Member states:

- **Armenia, Azerbaijan, Bulgaria, Georgia, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyz Republic, Romania, Turkey, Ukraine, Uzbekistan**

Eligibility of applications:

3.4. The applications must be presented only in English, using the annexed format (Annex 1: Application form).

3.5. The person designate to represent the proposal at the Global Forum of Incubators has to have communication skills in English (English is the official language of the Global Forum).

3.6. The applications have to be addressed to one of the 3 priorities:

- Business Innovation
- Technology Innovation
- Commercialisation of Technology.

Important note: The ICT applications are encouraged as the general priority of the infoDev initiative.

3.7. One participant/group of participants can submit a single application, selecting one priority.

4. Estimated term of implementation

No.	Action	Start date	End date
1	Dissemination / promotion	01.03.2008	15.05.2008
2	Submission of proposals	16.06.2008	15.07.2008
3	Evaluation and selection		
	Country selection	16.07.2008	15.09.2008
	ECA regional selection	16.09.2008	30.09.2008
4	Announcement of winners		01.10.2008
5	Contracting and administrative procedures	01.10.2008	30.10.2008
6	3 rd Global Forum of BICs	November 2008 (tentative)	
7	Dissemination	15.11.2008	15.12.2008

5. Description of Applications

Note: all materials are available at www.ecabit.org

The application will be organised in 3 parts:

→ Executive summary

Applicant contact details (Name, Organisation, position, full address, tel/fax, e-mail, http://...)

Partners contact details – if the case (Name, Organisation, position, full address, tel/fax, e-mail, http://...)

Summary of application (1 page) (priority that the application address, particularity of innovation, stage of development, forecast turnover)

→ Body of application (3 pages)

Aim of the application

Target group, target area

Relevance of application (for organisation for target group)

History of application

Actual stage of implementation (new idea, patented idea, existing business plan, business started already, innovation prepared for implementation, innovation implemented, existing turnover generated by innovation)

Market description

Business model

→ Financial elements (1 page)

Requested investment

Requested running capital

Estimated incomes

Estimated expenditures

Estimated profit

Sources of capital (own capital, loans, VC, other)

6. How and where to send the applications

Presentation

The application will be presented in pdf format - Application form plus CV in 1 (one) single file (max. 1Mb including the CV). Please do not use extensively the graphics and other big insertions – use the minimum necessary to support the application. You will not receive extra pages for graphics: maximum 5 pages for the application.

Delivering

The file will be sent via e-mail to the project co-ordinator, dr. Radu BIG, using the following address: radu@cdimm.org. You will be notified about the reception of your application.

All application have to be received befor **16 of July 2008, 18:00** (Romanian time is GMT+2). The applicant have to ensure the delivering befor the deadline.

Additional documents

The selected applicants (winners) will be asked to produce the evidences that support their declaration and the data used to prepare the application. Remember that this phase can eliminate your proposal from the Y2I competition.

7. Rule of confidentiality

The organisers ensure the full confidentiality of the application. Only the data selected by the applicant will be published, based on a written acceptance by the author.

8. Evaluation and selection procedure

The applications will be evaluated in 3 steps, by an evaluation team formed by experts from Romania (project co-ordination), Armenia, Bulgaria and Ukraine.

First step: Evaluation of conformity

The application must fulfil the entire set or regulation stated in the present guide. The missing data or documents will made the application not eligible.

Second step: National evaluation

All applications will be evaluated by a national evaluator. The applications will be ranked based on the total number of points. The applications from 1 to 3 will pass on the second step of evaluation.

Third step: Regional evaluation

The applications selected in previous stage (3 per country) will be evaluated by experts from the other participant countries. Each evaluation will be considered if the balance among 2 marks is less as 10%. The extreme marks (balance over 10%) will not be considered – the experts will reconcile the marks.

The final top will be announced. The jury will select 3 proposals for the final award, and 2 reserves.

The selected applicants will be asked to send the supporting documents (evidences) that will confirm their declarations.

The final decision will be made based on the received supporting documents.

9. Announcement

All applicants will be announced via e-mail regarding their own application ("selected", "reserve" or "not selected"). The list will be posted on the ECA site (www.ecabit.org).

All applicants will receive recommendation to contact the Business Innovation and incubation Centres in their country and will remain in the contact data base of the ECA Network. They will be encouraged to keep the contact with the experts and the network.

After the announcement the selected applicants will receive the official invitation to join the 3rd Global Forum of Business Incubation. The organisers (infoDev) will full support 3 participants that will join the Forum – travel costs, accommodation, fees for participation, supporting documents, meals during the official meetings, participation to the cultural programme.

10. Presentation on Global Forum

The selected application will be presented by the author (or representatives of the team) during the Global Forum. The details regarding the presentation on paper and electronically (including ppt presentation) will be received from the Forum's managers.

We will organise a special section/panel during the Global Forum dedicated to Young Innovation topic. The participants will present their papers based on the successful applications. The Global Forum will be the best opportunity to meet the main actors in the field of Business Incubation and Innovation selected by the World bank.

The winners will be full accepted to participate to each section of the Forum and will be encouraged to establish contacts with supporting organisations, financial organisations, potential partners, potential beneficiaries etc. The participants will have the opportunity to get the all possible advantages from this Global Forum.

11. Dissemination

The present phase of the Y2I Contest is the "pilot phase" – first year of implementation. We will prepare an evaluation report based on the experience achieved in the period 2007 – 2008: project history, evaluation from applicants, evaluation from experts, evaluation from ECA members, evaluation from Global Forum. All these data will be collected in an evaluation report and will be published on the ECA site – the access to report will be free.

The best practices will support the project improvement designed for next rounds.

All data will be circulated to the regional/national associations of youth existing in the data base of the Y2I project.

These efforts are aimed to create a favourable attitude inside of the target group: young experts in innovation.

The project will stimulate a favourable attitude regarding the business incubation and innovation, a better involvement of young experts in the ECA network activities.

The positive experiences, and the weaknesses as well, will be disseminated to all regions that are parts of the Global Forum. We will encourage to extend step by step the contest to other regions. The final target is that in 4 years Y2I to become a world contest.

ECAbit

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Annexe 1: Application form

Annexe 2: Evaluation criteria

IP Rights

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