Regulations for the Prize for the Best Thesis on Circular Economy

1. **Introduction**

To revitalise the Brussels economy with a sustainable approach, the RPCE (Regional Programme for a Circular Economy) was adopted by the Government on 10 March 2016 and is part of the Region’s strategy, with a future-oriented vision over 10 years.

The RPCE is intended to position the Brussels-Capital Region as an especially innovative European Region, and pioneering in terms of public policy, to support the development of the circular economy through a voluntary approach to the efficient management of resources. This programme is anchored in the economic, resilient, low-carbon, circular, social and democratic transition initiated by the Brussels Government.

In this context, the Region has created a Prize for the Best Thesis on Circular Economy, which recognises the best research work of students from Brussels institutions.

2. **Aim of the prize**

The aim of the Prize is to promote research and innovation with respect to circular economy and to embed the integration of the principles of circular economy in the research projects of all Brussels faculties and universities.

**Principle of the circular economy**

Circular economy can be defined as an economic system of exchange and production that aims to make the use of resources more efficient and reduce the environmental impact, at every stage of the product life-cycle (goods and services), whilst enhancing the well-being of individuals.

This model recommends the effective use of resources by reducing waste, ensuring that some people’s waste becomes other people's resources, extending product lifespans etc., all on a local scale. This makes it possible to reduce the environmental impact of exchanges and production while at the same time improving citizen well-being.

The circular economy is not limited to recovering and recycling materials; it also involves upstream reflection about the design of products; at the very start it is important to consider their lifespan and the reintegration of the resources that comprise them into the economic circuit at the end of their life.
This is a carbon neutrality model that creates local job and produces added value for Brussels residents whilst respecting their environment and quality of life.

3. **Eligibility**

To be eligible for the 2019-2020 edition of the Prize, candidates must submit a thesis or final dissertation to Innoviris, which:

- falls within the context of the circular economy as explained in point 2;
- has been successfully defended during the academic year 2019-2020 at a university or university college in the Brussels-Capital Region;

There are no age limit or nationality requirements for participation in this Prize.

Innoviris reserves the right to dismiss work that clearly does not meet these criteria.

4. **Amount of the prize**

The Prize is awarded to students in their own right. Its value is €2,000 in money and/or in kind.
Innoviris will also promote the various texts relating to the winning thesis among the media and its contact networks.

5. Submission of applications and rules for participation

5.1. The applications are drawn up using the form available on the Innoviris website (www.innoviris.brussels). Applications submitted via a method other than this form will not be taken into consideration.

5.2. Applications must be submitted to Innoviris, the Brussels Institute for Research and Innovation, Chaussée de Charleroi 110, 1060 Brussels, and sent to the following email address funding-request@innoviris.brussels and to mpossoz@innoviris.brussels by 15 September 2019 at the latest. Applications submitted after this date will not be taken into account.

5.3. The application must contain all the information and documents stipulated in the form and any other useful document supporting the application. The dossier must include a declaration that the candidate is the effective owner of all the copyright to the final thesis or dissertation. In the event of co-ownership of copyright, the candidate declares that they have received the agreement of the other co-owners regarding their participation in this Prize and regarding the right of Innoviris to reproduce, distribute or communicate all or part of this final thesis or dissertation in accordance with point 8. In this declaration the candidate also guarantees Innoviris against any claims by third parties due to the reproduction, distribution and communication of all or part of the final thesis or dissertation by Innoviris. Lastly, they guarantee that the final thesis or dissertation was not produced in contravention of the rights of a third party, and that it does not contain any information on which a third party could claim copyright or any other right.

The application must include:

- The duly completed and signed application form;
- The certificate of copyright which safeguards against any third party claims as mentioned in paragraph 5.3 above.
- A copy of an official ID document;
- A copy of the thesis/dissertation;
- A certificate from the University or University College proving that the thesis has been defended during the academic year 2019-2020 and that indicates the date of the defence and the grade awarded;
- A summary of the project, of a maximum of three pages, describing concisely:
  - the final thesis and its subject;
  - how the subject of the study addresses the theme of the circular economy;
  - how the approach is innovative;
  - its application or possible application to the Brussels-Capital Region.

The application dossier will be drafted in French, Dutch and English.
Applications that do not meet the conditions laid out above will be removed.

6. **Application selection procedure**

**Pre-selection**

Innoviris will ensure the admissibility of the submitted applications using the eligibility criteria set out in Article 3.

In addition to the administrative constraints that the applications must meet, this phase allows the relevance of the final thesis or dissertation to be checked in relation to the framework set out in Article 2.

**Selection**

The candidate theses or dissertations that meet the eligibility criteria will be submitted to the jury, which is responsible for selection in accordance with the criteria detailed in Article 7.

This jury is chaired by Innoviris and composed of circular economy experts.

The applications are analysed individually and in depth. The jury meets to deliberate and to select the best three dossiers.

The jury's decisions and interpretation of these rules are final.

The jury's selection results will be communicated to all candidates in writing.

The winner will be selected based on a popularised presentation of their work. This presentation may take place in front of a jury of experts in scientific popularisation or in front of a group comprising businesses, administrations, academics, politicians, etc. with a link to circular economy issues.

Information on the Prize and the winners will be published on the Innoviris website once the winners have been announced.

7. **Selection criteria**

The jury intends to honour those application dossiers that best meet the following criteria:

- the appropriateness of the project to the context of the circular economy;
- the excellence of the research work;
- the innovative nature of the project, in relation to both the theme and the research methodology;
- the usefulness and application potential in the Brussels Region;
- the drafting quality of the final thesis/dissertation.
- the quality of the presentation of the 3 best candidates
8. **Undertaking by the three selected candidates for the presentation**

The candidates selected for the final round of the competition commit to:

- taking part in the media and promotional campaign for the winning theses, which will be organised by Innoviris, particularly in the form of press releases;
- attending to present their work if the winners are selected in front of an audience. In these circumstances, the candidates undertake to present their work to an informed public in a maximum of three minutes and to be present for the Prize-giving Ceremony;
- authorising the downloading of their thesis (unless there is a confidentiality clause limited to part of the thesis).

However, the winners authorise Innoviris to reproduce an unlimited number of copies and to distribute and communicate all or part of these documents to the public through any communication technique, including cable, internet and IT networks, non-commercially, in any medium, including catalogues, reports, information publications and internet, clearly allocating authorship to the author, without the prior agreement of the authors or payment for copyright.

9. **Copyrights**

However, Innoviris is authorised by the winners to reproduce these documents, in whole or in part, in an unlimited number of copies, to distribute them and to communicate them to the public by any means of communication, including communication by cable, Internet and computer networks, in a non-commercial manner and on any medium, in particular catalogues, reports, information publications, Internet, and with clear reference to the author as the copyright holder, without the prior consent of the authors and without payment of the copyright. The applicant indemnifies Innoviris against all claims which third parties may assert in accordance with article 5.3.

10. **Prize-awarding**

The Prize will be awarded during a prize-giving ceremony in the presence of one or more representatives of the Brussels Government.

11. **Processing of personal data**

The personal data that we provide in the context of this competition via the online form collection, voluntarily provided and processed in conformity with Regulation (EU) 2016/679 on the protection of natural persons with regard to the processing of
personal data and on the free movement of such data, and repealing Directive 95/46/EC (General Regulation data protection).

Any processing of personal data is necessary for the organisation of the Prize as described in these regulations.

The data will be used to:
- verify the eligibility of the candidate to take part in the competition;
- contact the various participants;
- use the names of the winners and their background, in accordance with the commitments described in point 8 of these rules, when communicating with the public (e.g. Belgian and foreign press, partners/sponsors, social media, Innoviris website, etc.).

With the exception of the above actions, no data will be shared by third parties without the prior consent of the person concerned, unless Innoviris is legally obliged to do so.

The storage period is the time that is required to achieve the objectives of the involved processing. If the applicant is not selected, Innoviris commits itself to delete the information provided by the candidate as soon as possible.

If you have any questions or if you want to apply your rights, please contact dpo@innoviris.brussels or surf to our website and go to the section "privacy."

12. **Acceptance of the rules**

The submission of an application implies acceptance of these rules, which cannot be contested.