

START CUP COMPETITION 2023

“Entrepreneurship in the Mediterranean”



Introduction

The UNIMED SubNetwork on Employability is launching a call for applications for participation in **the 4th edition of the international competition “Entrepreneurship in the Mediterranean”**.

The UNIMED SubNetwork on Employability aims to strengthen economic and social cohesion, by promoting, on the one hand, cross-border, transnational, and interregional cooperation, and on the other, sustainable local development.

The specific objectives of the SubNetwork are the following ones:

- **To gather and share information** directly with the main players in the sector, throughout the Mediterranean region and contribute to the creation of a dedicated database;
- **To carry out studies, analyzes and research documents** on the theme;
- **To encourage dialogue and mutual exchange** of information in order to create new networks, partnerships and develop joint projects in order to disseminate employment opportunities;

- **To organize international events** (workshops, seminars and conferences, summer schools and intensive doctoral courses) to improve the flow of knowledge and the exchange of experiences between researchers and faculties;
- **To promote the exchange of students and professors** at Masters and doctoral level, through the creation of programs and joint supervision of courses and through the creation of a series of seminars for members of the SubNetwork.

Among other activities, the **UNIMED SubNetwork on Employability** is launching this year the fourth Edition of the initiative **“START CUP COMPETITION 2023”**

Definition

The **“Start Cup Competition 2023”** follows the **Start Cup Competition 2022,2021, and the RESUME 2018 First Edition** which took place in Messina (Italy) in September 2018 as part of the RESUME project (<https://www.resumeproject.eu/>).

The **“Start Cup Competition 2023”** is a competition of entrepreneurial ideas developed by university students enrolled in one of the universities around the Mediterranean. This competition aims to encourage participating teams from universities on both shores of the Mediterranean to present innovative ideas in the field of entrepreneurship.

Each university can select only one team for the “Start Cup Competition 2023”.

Place and date of the event

The **“Start Cup Competition 2023”** is organized jointly by UNIMED - Union of Mediterranean Universities and by the **Lebanese University**, coordinator of the **UNIMED SubNetwork on Employability**, with the collaboration of the **University Agency of la Francophonie - Moyen Orient**, the **European Training Foundation (ETF)** and **University of Granada, Spain**.

The “Start Cup Competition 2023” event will be hosted by the University of Granada, Spain on March 15 and 16, 2023 in the framework of the UNIMED General Assembly that will be held on the same date.

Selection criteria

The student:

- Is enrolled in one of the universities on two shores of the Mediterranean that are partners of UNIMED or AUF - Middle East Directorate for the 2023 academic year, all faculties admitted.
- Is the bearer of an innovative project idea that focuses on social impact
- Take part in this competition with a single team (min 2 students and max 4 students per team) knowing that only two members can represent the team in Spain if selected among the finalists.

Every university will have to nominate a focal point (by February 9th, 2023 by mentioning the full name, title, email address, contact details and work address) during this competition for a better & swift communication with the Lebanese University, coordinator of the UNIMED

SubNetwork on Employability from a part and with the students of the home university from another part. Email to be sent at: start.cup@ul.edu.lb

The team:

- Each team should indicate a team manager and a valid email address to which all correspondence regarding the competition will be sent.
- Each team can participate with only one “project idea”.
- The scientific committee has the right to exclude ideas that are not original or inconsistent with the objectives and spirit of the initiative.
- **Teams must not have created their start-ups yet**
- Participating teams can present their entrepreneurial ideas in **English or French**.

Deadlines to remember and documents required

- By **February 13, 2023**, each university will select a team from among the teams that will come to it. This team will represent the university in question at the “Start Cup Competition 2023”. To inform the Start Cup Competition Secretariat, you should write to start.cup@ul.edu.lb
- By **February 16, 2023** each of the finalist teams participating in the “Start Cup Competition 2023” will present, under pain of exclusion from the competition, the following documentation:
 - Request to participate <http://tiny.cc/STARTCUP23>
 - The registration certificates for the 2023 academic year of all students participating in the competition.
- The first selection to announce the chosen teams will take place on **February 17, 2023**.
- Online training for selected teams will take place on **February 20, 2023**.
- The following documents will be presented on **March 1, 2023**:
 - A Business Plan following the format that will be sent to all the universities participating in the competition.
 - A Pitch deck (PPT presentation) according to the format that will be sent to all the participating universities but with free choice for the design.
 - A Poster following the format that will be sent to all the universities participating in the competition.
 - **To download the documents, it is possible to use wetransfer.com by sending the message to the following address start.cup@ul.edu.lb**
 - The competition will take place between **March 15 & 16, 2023**

Jury

For the evaluation of the finalist projects, a jury will be formed; more details about the members will be communicated soon.

Participation in the Scientific Committee does not provide for compensation. It is responsible for evaluating, in complete autonomy and discretion, the proposals submitted by the candidates for their admission to participation and for the awarding of prizes. The evaluation criteria are mainly originality, innovation, response to a need, economic feasibility.

Final price

The team that wins the first prize at the “Start Cup Competition 2023” will have a prize of EUR 1,000 offered by AUF - Middle East Directorate.

Confidentiality

All parties involved in this competition in various ways in the organization and implementation of the “Start Cup Competition 2023” (organizers, jury) will guarantee the confidentiality of the information provided by the participants.

The submitted entrepreneurial ideas and business plan documentation will be at UNIMED headquarters as the initiative coordinator.

How to participate

Universities wishing to participate in the “Start Cup Competition 2023” can write to the following address start.cup@ul.edu.lb by **February 9th , 2023**.