



We open doors for Women Entrepreneurs

CALL FOR APPLICATIONS

2021 WEgate Awards

for Women Entrepreneurs in Europe

RULES OF CONTEST



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1. Introduction

The WEGate Awards for Women Entrepreneurs in Europe (hereafter “WEGate Awards”) celebrate the entrepreneurial spirit of women across Europe, aiming to promote female leadership in business, give visibility to the diversity of Women Entrepreneurs (WE) and provide role models for emerging or future entrepreneurs.

The WEGate Awards recognize women who distinguish themselves as business leaders, through passion and creativity in their ventures, contribution to advancing the status of other women in their entrepreneurial journey or through a greater social impact of their businesses.

The WEGate Awards are an initiative of the European Gateway for Women’s Entrepreneurship - [WEGate](#) - an e-platform launched by the European Commission through the COSME programme, to accompany the growing and diverse network of stakeholders engaged in supporting women entrepreneurs across Europe. The call is managed by the WEGate Consortium members (‘WEGate’).

The WEGate Awards will be presented in the framework of the WEGate Summit, WEGate’s flagship event dedicated to Women Entrepreneurs across Europe, which will hold its second edition on the 7th of October 2021.

2. WEGate Awards Categories

The WEGate Awards aims to recognize entrepreneurial spirit of women at different stages of their entrepreneurial journey, and therefore it includes three different categories, with a single winner for each category:

- 1) **WEGate Nova Award for Women Entrepreneurship in Europe:** awarded to a WE running a newly established business (maximum three years) demonstrating outstanding qualities in setting-up and growing a business with a strong socio-economic potential.
- 2) **WEGate Magna Award for Women Entrepreneurship in Europe:** awarded to a WE running an established business able to demonstrate a successful scale of a business with an innovative socio-economic or environmental approach.
- 3) **WEGate Impulse Award for Women Entrepreneurship in Europe:** awarded to a WE acting as a champion enhancing the status of Women Entrepreneurs and/or leading an organization running initiatives or providing services that encourage and support other WE in her community.

3. Timetable and deadlines

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| Launch of the WEgate Awards | 14/07/2021 |
| Deadline for submission | 15/09/2021 |
| Eligibility check of received applications | 15/09 - 18/09/2021 |
| 1st round of selection | 18-22/09/2021 |
| Announcement of the shortlisted nominees | 23/09/2021 |
| 2nd round of selection & selection of Winners | 25-28/09/2021 |
| Announcement of the winners at the WEgate Summit 2021 | 07/10/2021 |

4. Application procedure

All applications must be submitted directly via email, sending the documents and annexes as described below, before the set deadline of 15 September at 17.00 CET to the following email address: info@wegate.eu
The application must be submitted before the call deadline. After this deadline, applications can no longer be submitted (official time records will be the time of the email as received by the WE Gate Award Committee at the above email address).

All applications will receive confirmation of receipt. If you do not receive a confirmation before 24 hrs time, this means that your application hasn't been received: please contact immediately the email info@wegate.eu explaining the situation and providing proof of delivery.

All applications and documents are to be sent in one and only email (not complying might lead to exclusion), in PDF format. The application must be in English and respect the indicated **word limit** (intended as limit on characters, spaces included); any excess characters will be disregarded.

An applicant can only apply for one category. In all three categories, two or more women co-founders of a single company may submit a joint application, competing for one single prize.

Documents to be provided for the application:

- WEgate Award Application Form (signed and dated, pdf format);
- Picture (headshot) of the applicant (for communication and promotion purposes);
- Declaration on Honour (signed and dated, on headed letter, pdf format);
- Optional: Photos of activities/products (or other relevant documents related to service/product with a limit of 2 pages in PDF format).

Documents available to applicants for download:

- WEgate Award Application Form (Word file);
- Declaration of Honour (Word file);
- Rules of Contest (PDF);
- FAQ (PDF).

All documents will be available on the WEgate Awards webpage, in English.

5. Eligibility Criteria

In order to be eligible, all applicants must:

- Be a woman;

These Awards celebrate women in all their diversity. The word 'woman' equates to a cis woman, or a transgender woman who identifies herself as woman.

- Entrepreneurs are defined as founders/co-founders/owners of a private business with full or partial ownership of minimum 33% and an active involvement in the management of the company.

Exception: women founders/co-founders of non-profit organisations are eligible for the Impulse category.

- The business must be established as a legal entity in one of the COSME countries ([Europe-36](#): 27 EU countries, Albania, the Republic of North Macedonia, Iceland, Israel, Turkey, Liechtenstein, Montenegro, United Kingdom and Serbia).
- Not be professionally linked with any organisations partnering with the WEgate Awards, nor a family member of same (conflict of interest).

6. Award procedure

Applications will be subject to a formal evaluation by an independent jury.

The jury members will be selected by the WEGate consortium partners from a pool of experts coming from the European business ecosystem, they are individuals that have proven to be successful in their fields, the insights on the entrepreneurial community at local and international level and their experience is important in spotting potential, innovation and leadership attributes of the applicants and their projects. Jury members are independent from the WEGate project and Community.

Each category will have a designated expert jury that will evaluate all eligible applications against the Award criteria described in Section 7.

7. WEGate Awards criteria

The awarding selection will be based upon the following general criteria:

1. *Entrepreneurial qualities*

The applicant has shown active leadership and had a pivotal role in the development and growth of the company. She has shown a clear sense of direction, persistence and resilience.

2. *Leadership and vision*

The applicant is a strong role model who has the potential to inspire others within her company and beyond. The applicant should also detail the medium- and long-term vision for the company.

3. *Innovation and impact of the business*

The product or service developed by the WE shows significant innovation benefits to consumers, socio-economic or CI sectors. The applicant should describe the specific benefits of their product or service, how it creates an added value to the society, and the potential for applicability in other sectors.

4. *Coherence of the application with the Awards objective.*

Overall, the application aligns with the aim of recognizing female leadership in business and providing role models for current or future entrepreneurs.

The awarding selection per WEGate Award Category will be based upon the following Criteria:

1. *WEGate Nova Award*

Growth potential of the business: the product or service addresses a specific societal need or challenge and demonstrates an important potential for growth and creation of value.

2. *WEgate Magna Award*

Strategic development: the product or service shows a clear trajectory of continuous development and growth, as well as economic and financial viability (economic model, financing plan, development prospects).

3. *WEgate Impulse Award*

Impact on the female entrepreneurship ecosystem: the applicant has detailed her contribution, as well as the quantifiable impact her initiatives had on enhancing the status of Women Entrepreneurs.

8. Evaluation and selection procedure

1. Eligibility check

The WEgate Awards Committee will first check if each application to ensure they meet all the eligibility criteria.

2. First round of selection

For each criteria, the Jury will give a score from 1 to 10 - 1 being poor and 10 being outstanding.

Following the evaluation of the Jury, the candidates with the highest five scores per category will be shortlisted.

3. Second round of selection

Following the first round of selection, the jury will meet for a presentation of the five shortlisted applicants. Each applicant will present herself and her motivation for winning the awards in a 3 minutes presentation.

The presentation of each applicant will be evaluated against the following criteria:

- **Relevance of the presentation in relation to the competition:** adequacy with the award category, the applicant shows concrete examples of her contribution to the growth of the company. The activities and initiatives she presents are inspiring, creative and show impact in her ecosystem.

For the criteria, the Jury will give a score from 1 to 10 - 1 being poor and 10 being outstanding, together with a brief motivation of the score.

The applicant with the highest score becomes the winner of the respective category. In case two or more applicants have the same score, the jury will convene to decide on the winner.

4. Announcement of the winners

The announcement of the winners for each category will be made during the WEgate Awards ceremony at the WEgate Summit on the 7th of October 2021.

All applicants will be informed of the results (an official communication letter will be sent to the email address provided in the application stage). They will receive also an invitation to take part to the WEgate Summit for the Awarding Ceremony.

The winning applicants are obliged not to communicate or disseminate the final outcome until the presentation of the winner at the WEGate Award Ceremony.

9. Legal notice, general terms & conditions

Disclaimer

The aim of the WEGate Awards is to showcase outstanding women entrepreneurs across Europe and recognise their contribution to improving the ecosystem and increasing participation of more women in business.

The organizing of the WEGate Awards is managed by the WEGate consortium, supported by the COSME programme of the European Union. The information and material provided do not necessarily reflect the official position of the award organizers or their Partners.

The goal is to keep the information about the awards timely and accurate. If errors are brought to our attention we will try to correct them. However, neither the WEGate consortium, nor its Partners, their employees, affiliates or family members can be held responsible for any errors, omissions, inaccuracies or incompleteness in the information and material provided either directly or indirectly, or for any consequences or actions their use may result in. In addition, neither of the above is responsible or may be held accountable for any loss suffered as a result of reliance upon the information provided on the present website.

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Protection of Personal Data

The WEGate consortium and its Partners committed to the protection of personal data, in accordance with GDPR and Regulation No.45/2001 of the European Parliament and Council “on protection of individuals with regard to processing of personal data by Community institutions and bodies and free movement of such data”.

Your personal data will thus be processed in conformity with the above-mentioned Regulations. Should you have any queries about the processing of your personal data, both regarding access to data and rectification of these data, you are invited to send your request to the responsible of the processing operation: info@wegate.eu

You also have the right to apply at any moment to the European Data Protection Supervisor.

Your personal data will only be accessible to the WEGate consortium and its Partners for the purposes of organising awards, promotion of the winning entries, and following up with requests sent by applicants.

Copyright Release

Applicants retain the copyright of their materials and applications. However by entering the competition, the applicants authorise the WEGate consortium and its Partners to unlimited reproduction rights of the materials for the purposes of promotion of the competition, prize giving and awards ceremonies.

Photos and videos taken by the WEgate consortium either in preparation of the Award ceremony or during the Award ceremony are the sole property of the WEgate consortium.

Legal Issues

The WEgate consortium, its Partners, Contractors and Associates for the twelve months prior to the nominations deadline, and their family members, are not eligible to take part in the WEgate Awards competition as nominees or award recipients.

The WEgate consortium and its Partners reserve the right to modify the terms, conditions and content of the competition at any time including but not limited to the prizes, deadlines and sponsors. Any notifications or possible changes will be published on the website and will apply as of the date of publication.

Before submission, special attention should be given to the following point: all participants must comply with European and national copyright laws.

Entries may not contain statements, facts, information or quotations that could denigrate or harm any person or group of people; neither statements, images facts, information or quotations encouraging persecution of people on the grounds of race, opinion, nationality, sex, religion, profession or other persuasion, nor entries encouraging crime or law-breaking will be allowed.

All persons photographed or filmed for the purposes of the Awards have given their consent for publication.

Ethics and values

Activities must comply with the highest ethical standards and the applicable EU, international and national law on ethical principles. Moreover, they must respect basic EU values (such as respect for human dignity, freedom, democracy, equality, the rule of law and human rights, including the rights of minorities).

Complaints

If you believe that the evaluation procedure was flawed, you can submit a **complaint**, deadlines and procedures will be described in the result letter.

10. Contact and further information

Additional information can be found here:

- WEgate website www.wegate.eu
- WEgate 2021 Summit website <https://wegate-summit-2021.b2match.io/>
- WEgate Award FAQs (it will be updated regularly)

Contact

Award-related questions should be sent to the following email address: info@wegate.eu

Please indicate clearly the reference of the call and topic to which your question relates.



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Legal Disclaimer

The content of this WEGate Awards Rules of Contest and related documents represent the views of the author only and is his/her sole responsibility; it cannot be considered to reflect the views of the European Commission and/or the Executive Agency for Small and Medium-sized Enterprises or any other body of the European Union. The European Commission and the Agency do not accept any responsibility for use that may be made of the information it contains.

