



EMBASSY OF SWEDEN

PRAGUE

The Swedish Innovation Prize

PRAGUE, 23 October 2012

Description of the prize

The Swedish Innovation Prize is a project intended to support talented Czech students of technical and design focus, and also to strengthen cooperation and mutual relations between Czech Republic and Sweden.

Organizer

Sweden, represented by Embassy of Sweden to the Czech Republic, together with three major enterprises from Sweden: furniture and equipment manufacturer IKEA, developer Skanska Reality and producer of defence and security solutions Saab AB.

Target universities

České vysoké učení technické (ČVUT)

Masarykova univerzita (MU)

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Technická univerzita v Liberci (TUL)

Univerzita Karlova (UK)

Univerzita Tomáše Bati (UTB)

Vysoká škola báňská – Technická univerzita (VŠB – TU)

Vysoká škola uměleckoprůmyslová (VŠUP, aka UMPRUM)

Vysoké učení technické (VUT)

Vyšší odborná škola uměleckoprůmyslová (VOSUP SUPS)

Awards

Students can participate and be awarded in one of the following categories:

- Civil security
- Green technologies
- Industrial design

Selection criteria

Professors in the fields of technology, environment, design and interior decoration at target universities will be encouraged to identify and nominate up to 5 outstanding students in each mentioned category. The nominated students should be of exceptional skills in their academic field. The selected students are then asked to write a presentation (**one page /approx. 500 words/ – in English**) that best showcases their skills in the competition category and submit this to the committee of the Prize, together with an Application form. The committee of the prize consists of representatives of the Embassy of Sweden in Prague and the companies IKEA, Skanska Reality and Saab AB.

When choosing the candidates, the professors are asked to select students who are in the last year of their master or bachelor study, have original and innovative ideas, and whose results rise above the average level. The

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candidates should be working on a thesis or project that could demonstrate their skills. And based on these projects, the students will be nominated.

A “work-in-progress” projects/theses are preferred, but finished ones will be accepted too. The candidates should be represented by a project/thesis that meets the following criteria:

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- **original approach** / aims to come up with original and innovative solutions
- **practical solutions** / contains ideas that are applicable in practice, not only in theory
- **economic solutions** / contains ideas that would be usable in practice also from the economic point of view
- **the level of the student's involvement/research** invested into the thesis/project **goes beyond the required academic level** and proves the student's deep interest and good understanding of the topic.

What does this mean in practice:

Original approach

- Critically uses current state of knowledge (theories, methods, etc.) i.e. works with their weak spots
- Strives to come up with innovation: new solutions, improving current ones to be more effective
- The work can be theoretical, discussing possibilities for improvement in current solutions, but within limitations set later in the text
- Reflects the work of others in the same field and does not copy them nor "reinvents the wheel" (lot of references – e.g. articles in journals, proving that the author knows what is going on in his/her field).

Practical solutions

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- Contains ideas or solutions that can be used in practice (meaning they are reflecting current state of technology / knowledge, are compatible with existing technologies and methods and their limits)
- It could be theoretical, but with aim for practical solutions (meaning not completely separated from practice – e.g. generally dealing with the problem of house insulation and coming to the conclusion that there should be a new material developed is not acceptable, but theoretically considering the features of this material based on the currently used ones and concluding what problems must be overcome in the production of this material and suggesting how is acceptable.)

Economic solutions

- Considers production expenses and other connected issues
- Considers cost-effectiveness
- Considers added value of replacing the old solution with the new one

The level of student's involvement/research

This point will be judged only by the professors. As a guideline, we suggest taking into account if the student proved that s/he goes beyond the required level of work in terms of:

- Time spent on the project
- Knowledge gained and used
- Used sources (journals, book, articles, etc.)
- Participating in a study program abroad or outside the university (e.g. summer school)
- Participating in other groups or platforms (e.g. students' workshop, publishing articles, presenting on conferences, etc.)

Category specific criteria

Beside above-mentioned criteria common for all categories, several category specific criteria must be met, following the business stream of individual category partners:

Civil security

- Focus on improvement and innovation in the field of training of security forces and emergency services. Applicants should propose innovative techniques and tools to make training more efficient, time and cost effective, and more beneficial in terms of security and safety.

Green technologies

- Projects / theses in this category **must be focused on green technologies (solutions) for buildings**

Industrial design

- Please take into account that for IKEA the following characteristics are particularly important: functionality, relevancy to customers' needs, accessibility to many people, focus on production cost, sustainability, appearance.

Selection process

The professors will nominate up to 5 students in each category. Then, the students will submit one-page summary in English to the Prize committee. The documents then will be evaluated and three best projects (their authors) will be selected for the final round.

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The final will have the form of personal presentation of the project to the Committee followed by a discussion (30 minutes including the discussion). As the members of the committee will be both of Czech and Swedish nationality, **both the presentation and the discussion will be in English. Therefore the candidates must have appropriate language skills.**

The winners will be announced at a ceremony, held at the Embassy of Sweden in Prague.

Winners

Three winners will be selected, one in each competition category. The winners will receive a paid study visit to Sweden for 5 days with an indepth visit to the responsible company in Sweden. Organized by the Swedish Institute (SI) a full program will be presented, based on the academic profile of the winners. There will also be a chance for the winners to see the major sights of the capital city of Stockholm or other Swedish cities.

Schedule

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|-----------------|-----------------------|--|
| October 2012 | | Detailed information sent to professors |
| November | 9th | Confirmation from the professors on their participation |
| December 2012 | 14 th | Deadline for students to submit their application (one-page summary) |
| February 2013 | 2 nd half | Personal presentation of the projects by selected finalists |
| March 2013 | 1 st week | The prize to be granted to the winners at a ceremony |
| April 2013 | 1 st half | The winners' visit to Sweden. |