



FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

1. What is circular economy?

Circular economy is based on three principles: eliminating waste and pollution, conserving the products and materials used and regenerating natural systems.

2. What is blue/ocean economy?

Blue/ocean economy is based on the wise use and sustainable management of aquatic and marine ecosystems and associated resources.

3. What is the purpose of this competition?

The Blue Champion Award aims to promote entrepreneurship that reflects both the concept of circular economy and blue/ocean economy in the AIODIS countries. The main theme of this first edition is the "fight against marine plastic pollution". It aims to raise awareness of the challenges of sustainable development in the islands of Africa and the Indian Ocean by involving young entrepreneurs and project leaders.

4. What are the AIODIS countries?

AIODIS countries are the islands of Africa and the Indian Ocean, namely: Cabo Verde, the Union of the Comoros, Guinea-Bissau, Madagascar, Maldives, Mauritius, Reunion Island, São Tomé and Príncipe and Seychelles.

5. What is the prize to be won?

Details of the prize of each category are specified in Article 6 of the [regulation](#)¹.

6. Who can participate?

These criteria can be consulted in the competition rules (Article 3)

You can apply for the "Best Ocean Entrepreneur" category if:

- you are a national and/or resident of Cabo Verde, the Comoros, Guinea-Bissau, Madagascar, the Maldives, Mauritius, Reunion Island, São Tomé and Príncipe or Seychelles;
- you are between 18 and 40 years of age;
- you are the founder or co-founder of a company that integrates the circular economy into the economic model and contributes to the reduction of marine pollution in addition to providing economic and social benefits;
- you have a certificate of registration (minimum 12 months) of the company from the competent authority of one of the AIODIS countries.

You can apply for the "Best Innovative Concept" Category if:

- you are a national and/or resident of Cabo Verde, the Comoros, Guinea-Bissau, Madagascar, the Maldives, Mauritius, Reunion Island, São Tomé and Príncipe or Seychelles;
- you are between 18 and 40 years of age;
- your concept/business will be/is an individual initiative or a partnership where you have a lead role
- you are planning to set up a company or are in charge of a company based in one of the eligible countries that has been operating for less than 12 months.

¹<https://bit.ly/32mEMI5>

7. I am not a local from one of the countries, but I live there, do I have the right to participate?

You can enter this competition if you have proof of residence in one of the following countries: Cabo Verde, Comoros, Guinea-Bissau, Madagascar, Maldives, Mauritius, Reunion Island, São Tomé and Príncipe or Seychelles.

8. I am a citizen (national) of one of the AIODIS countries but I do not live there, do I have the right to participate?

You can participate in this competition if you are a national of one of the AIODIS countries without residing there. However, your concept or company will necessarily have to impact one or more AIODIS countries. Please note that, in accordance with article 11.2 of the regulations, if you are selected for the regional final in Mauritius, the round trip paid by the organising committee must be from one of the AIODIS countries (AIODIS countries-Mauritius-AIODIS countries). If you do not live in one of the AIODIS countries, you will be responsible for any travel expenses from your country of residence to one of the AIODIS countries and back.

9. I would like to apply for the category "Best ocean entrepreneur". My company is not registered in one of the AIODIS countries, but my products and/or services are available there and have a positive impact on one or more of the AIODIS countries. Can I participate?

No. Your company must be registered in one of the AIODIS countries. A certificate of registration of your company, issued by the competent authority of the country, is required to participate in the Blue Champion Award.

10. How to participate?

You can apply [online²](#) for the appropriate category of the Blue Champion Award for "Best Ocean Entrepreneur" or "Best Innovative Concept".

It is also possible to download an application form for the appropriate category of the Blue Champion Award, « [Best Ocean Entrepreneur³](#) » or « [Best Innovative Concept⁴](#) » and send it by email to communication@coi-ioc.org. Supporting documents, if they exceed 20MB, must be sent via WeTransfer to the same email address.

11. Can I participate in both categories?

Yes, if you have two different projects that meet the criteria of each category.

12. Can I submit more than one application?

No. You may submit only one application per category. (Article 3.3 of the Regulation)

13. What are the documents to be provided?

For the "Best Ocean Entrepreneur" Category:

- The completed form
- A one-page CV
- A 02-minute video
- A copy of your identity document

² <https://bit.ly/2kKkz8h>

³ <https://bit.ly/2m04HOT>

⁴ <https://bit.ly/2kOcpLW>

- A copy of your proof of residence (for applicants who do not hold the nationality of one of the countries concerned)
- A copy of your company's registration certificate

For the "Best Innovative Concept" Category:

- The completed form
- A one-page CV
- A 02-minute video
- A copy of your identity document
- A copy of your proof of residence (for applicants who do not hold the nationality of one of the countries concerned)
- A copy of your company's registration certificate (if you have already started your business)

14. How many candidates are selected for the final?

A maximum of 18 candidates will be selected for the regional final: 1 candidate per country and per category.

15. What is the selection process?

The members of the jury will evaluate the applications in order to select one candidate per country and per category.

The selected candidates will be invited to participate in the final of the regional competition at the Circular Economy Forum to be held in Mauritius from 9 to 11 December 2019. The associated costs will be covered by the IOC SWIOFISH2 project funded by the World Bank.

16. Who will be responsible for evaluating the applications?

The jury will be composed of experienced entrepreneurs, representatives of institutions supporting entrepreneurship and experts in sustainable development.

17. What are the evaluation criteria?

The detailed evaluation criteria are to be found in Article 5 of the Regulation

For the pre-selection of qualified candidates for the final of the regional competition:

Each application will be evaluated according to its originality, reproducibility and impact.

During the final of the regional competition:

Each candidate will be evaluated during the presentation of his project to the members of the jury and during a pitching session in public.

18. When and how will I be informed of the results?

The deadline for applications is 3 November⁵ 2019 at 23:59 Mauritius time (UTC +4). Applicants will be informed individually by email of the outcome of their applications by 14⁶ November 2019 at the latest.

19. Where and when will the final take place?

⁵ New deadline adopted at the meeting of the National Focal Points of the AIODIS countries on 16/10/2019 in Mauritius. Previous deadline: 20 October

⁶ New date adopted at the meeting of the National Focal Points of the AIODIS countries on 16/10/2019 in Mauritius. Previous date: 6 November

The final of the regional competition will take place in Mauritius during the Circular Economy Forum from 9 to 11 December 2019.

20. Why do I have to submit a video?

This is to give the members of the jury a dynamic overview of your project but also of your commitment to the circular economy and the promotion of the fight against marine pollution. This is also an opportunity to present your products/services.

21. How do I make my video?

The video making process is free. Smartphone videos are accepted. The video length should not exceed 02 minutes.

22. In which format should I send my video?

The video will be transmitted via a YouTube link. You will therefore need to create a channel to upload your video and select "not listed" in the visibility section. This way, only people with the video link will have access to it.

23. In which format should I send my CV and supporting documents?

The requested documents must be submitted in PDF or JPG format.

24. What is the maximum file size not to exceed?

All your attachments (CV and supporting documents requested) must not exceed 1GB.

25. Who can I contact if I have trouble sending my application or if I need additional information?

If the answer to your question is not listed in the [regulation](#)⁷ or in this document, you can contact the IOC by email communication@coi-ioc.org or phone Asha or Catherine (+230 402 61 00).

The Blue Champion Award is supported by:



⁷ <https://bit.ly/32mEMI5>

