

IDEA KYMI Competition Rules

Participants in the idea competition must read and accept these rules before submitting their competition proposal.



1. Purpose of the Competition

The purpose of the competition is to encourage innovation and creativity by seeking, discovering, and rewarding innovations, inventions, or ideas that are deemed to have commercial potential.

The proposal can be, for example, a technical solution, a product or service, a significant product or service improvement, or a justified idea.

The content of the proposal is not limited, but the evaluation emphasizes the focus areas of regional development in Kymenlaakso: logistics, bio and circular economy, and digitalization. Additionally, emphasis is placed on the food industry and its primary production. We also welcome proposals related to "promoting children's and young people's financial skills or senior citizens' digital skills."

The proposal must be previously unpublished and unrealized. No more than one year should have passed since the first publication. A proposal previously submitted to the previous Idea Kymi competition is also accepted if the proposer can reliably demonstrate that the idea has significantly evolved.

2. Competition Organizers and Evaluation Committee

The competition is organized by the actors belonging to the Kymenlaakso innovation network: regional development companies Cursor Oy and Kouvola Innovation Oy, Southeast Finland ELY Centre, TE Office, South-Eastern Finland University of Applied Sciences (XAMK), Eduko Vocational College in Kouvola, Ekami Joint Municipal Authority for Education in Kotka-Hamina Region, Kymen Innovation Association, Kymen Yrittäjät (Kymen Entrepreneurs), Keksintösäätiö (Finnish Inventors' Foundation), Kymenlaakso Chamber of Commerce, Kymenlaakso Regional Council, and LUT University Kouvola Campus.

The Evaluation Committee is composed of:

1. Markku Merovuo, Chairman, Keksintösäätiö ry
2. Markku Saari, Kymen Innovation Association
3. Asko Jaakkola, Southeast Finland ELY Centre
4. Jenna Hyrkäs, TE Office Southeast Finland
5. Jukka Antila, Kouvola Innovation Oy
6. Marja Holopainen, Cursor Oy
7. Tuija Arola, Eduko Vocational College in Kouvola
8. Susanna Eerola, Ekami Vocational College of South Kymenlaakso
9. Minna Pasila, South-Eastern Finland University of Applied Sciences Xamk Oy
10. Kari Jääskeläinen, Kymen Yrittäjät ry
11. Marika Kirjavainen, Kymenlaakso Chamber of Commerce
12. Petri Tolmunen, Kymenlaakso Regional Council
13. Marko Torkkeli, LUT University Kouvola Campus

The members of the Evaluation Committee have signed a joint non-disclosure agreement. The Evaluation Committee may confidentially request expert opinions on the competition proposals. The decisions of the Evaluation Committee are final and cannot be appealed.

3. Implementation of the Competition

The competition period is from 15th October to 15th November 2023. Proposals must be received by 15th November 2023 at 4:00 PM at the latest.

The idea proposal is to be made in Finnish: The proposer provides a name and a brief description in accordance with the instructions for their proposal, which can be published when announcing the competition.

The presenter of the proposal can be a private individual residing or studying in the Kymenlaakso region, or a company or other organization operating in the same area.

THE COMPETITION CONSISTS OF FIVE CATEGORIES:

- A. **Invention Category** – inventions, innovations, employment inventions, and university inventions
- B. **Business Idea Category** – service/product idea or social innovation or business concept aiming for entrepreneurship
- C. **Recycling Category** – invention or business idea, employment invention, or university invention
- D.1. **Idea Category** – innovative solution or idea
- D.2. **OP Kymenlaakso Idea** – OP Kymenlaakso financial literacy idea promoting smart money management for children and young people or guiding safe digital transactions for senior citizens.

Ultimately, the Evaluation Committee decides which category the proposal belongs to.

Participate in the competition: www.cursor.fi/ideakymi

4. Possible Questions

The competition will be announced on the websites of all organizing organizations. Further information about the idea competition will be published on the [cursor.fi/ideakymi](http://www.cursor.fi/ideakymi) page. Any questions regarding the competition should be submitted by email to ideakymi@cursor.fi by 15th November 2023.

The questions and answers will be available from 1st November 2023 onwards at [cursor.fi/ideakymi](http://www.cursor.fi/ideakymi).

5. Prizes

The distribution of prizes will take place at the Kymenlaakso Innovation Symposium held after the competition.

Winner of Invention Category: €2500

Winner of Business Idea Category: €1000

Winner of Recycling Category: €2500

Idea Category (especially for students): 3 awards of €300 each

OP Kymenlaakso Idea Category: 3 awards of €500 each

The prizes are taxable income for the recipients. The Evaluation Committee has the right to distribute the total sum of prizes differently than stated.

6. Copyright of Competition Entries

The rights to the competition ideas belong to the proposer who submitted the proposal. The competition organizer does not claim ownership rights.

The proposals sent to the competition will be handled confidentially in all competition-related stages. Only the name and summary provided by the participant for their idea and the proposer's name may be published regarding the competition proposal. Otherwise, Finnish law applies to the competition.

7. Data Privacy

The data privacy of the participants in the competition will be carefully maintained. Read more about the data privacy practices of the organizing organizations.

8. Miscellaneous

You can request assistance in further developing and commercializing your invention or idea from your local development company. The service is free of charge. You can also join as a member of Kymen Innovation Association at kymeninno.fi to receive peer support from the association.