



Application for the ideas competition

European Student Challenge 2026

DEADLINE FOR SUBMISSIONS IS 28.February 2026

1. Title of the competition entry

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2. I/we am/are applying as:

Please tick/fill in as appropriate

☐	Individual	
☐	Team/Name:	Number of team members:

3. Personal details:

For team applications, to be completed by each team member

Last name, first name	
Address	
Country	
Mobile/Email	
Date and place of birth	

4. Industry/(field of study):

Field of study (including intended degree)	
Field of study	
University	
Proof of enrollment Winter Semester 2025/26	

5. My/our idea solves a problem in the following area:

Please tick the appropriate box; multiple answers are possible

☐	Design/creativity
☐	Service
☐	Energy/Environment
☐	Nutrition/Health/Sports
☐	Culture/Art/Music
☐	Mobility
☐	Software/IT
☐	Process technologies

5.1 What is my/our idea?

Please describe your product/service in max. 500 characters.

5.2 What problem does my/our idea solve?

Please describe the solution to the problem in max. 500 characters.

5. How does my/our idea solve the problem?

Please list the technologies, processes, IP, skills, etc. used in max. 500 characters.

5.4 How or why does it do this better than others?

Please describe in max. 500 characters why and how the idea stands out from the competition, because it is more innovative, faster, more effective, cheaper, more environmentally friendly, etc.

5.5 Are there (already) competitors?

If so, where and how are they positioned in the (inter)national market? Please provide a brief overview.

6. Mentor

I am/we are looking for a mentor (area and/or function):

Please tick the appropriate box; multiple selections are possible

Field	
☐	Design/creativity
☐	Service
☐	Energy/Environment
☐	Nutrition/Health/Sports
☐	Culture/Art/Music
☐	Mobility
☐	Software/IT
☐	Process technologies

Function	
☐	R&D
☐	IT
☐	Marketing/Sales/PR
☐	Finance/Controlling
☐	Manufacturing/SCM
☐	Human resources/organization
☐	Procurement/Purchasing
☐	Leadership / management

What do you expect from your mentor?

7. Other

- The layout of the application form must not be changed.
- If necessary, you can also submit a sketch and/or photo.
- Please base your coherent presentation of your idea to the above-mentioned guiding questions 5.1 – 5.5.

8. Terms and conditions

Please tick the box.

	I have read and accept the Terms of Participation for the European Student Challenge 2025/26 in their currently valid version (as of January 2026) (see attachment) and accept them.
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Date, place

Participant/Team

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European Student Challenge 2026 Terms of Participation

Subject of the Competition

The "European Student Challenge 2026" (hereinafter referred to as "Competition") is a Europe-wide competition organized by Haus der Mentoren gemeinnützige GmbH (hereinafter referred to as "Organizer"). It targets creative and innovative students from all faculties of European universities.

The aim and purpose of the competition are for participants to develop groundbreaking ideas in fields such as design/creativity, service, energy/environment, nutrition/health/sport, culture/art/music, mobility, software/IT, or process engineering (hereinafter referred to as "Competition Contribution") into services/products, projects, events, patents, business ideas, joint ventures, etc., based on an initial submitted concept sketch (hereinafter "Phase 1") and a subsequent project phase (hereinafter "Phase 2"). Participants (also referred to as "Mentees") receive support from (industry) experts through collaboration and individual coaching (hereinafter referred to as "Mentors"). The top three ideas will be determined by a high-profile expert jury and awarded with prize money during a final event on November 6, 2026:

- | | |
|-----------------|-------------|
| 1. First prize | € 10.000,00 |
| 2. Second prize | € 7.500,00 |
| 3. Third prize | € 2.500,00 |

Participants

Eligible participants are students and doctoral candidates from the winter semester 2025/26 at European universities (universities and technical colleges) who have ideas in the areas of design/creativity, service, energy/environment, nutrition/health/sport, culture/art/music, mobility, software/IT, or process engineering. Participants may compete individually or as teams. If participating as a team, each team member must be individually registered as a participant. One team member must be designated as the point of contact. Companies are excluded from participation.

Registration is done online. If competing as a team, all members must be listed on the registration form.

Any competition entry must be submitted either in German or English. The cover sheet and the Competition Contribution remain with the Organizer.

Participants must work interdisciplinarily with Mentors. The nature of collaboration in Phase 2 will be individually determined between participants and Mentors. Each participating team will receive a free 6-month InfoScape license from TerraTech Holding GmbH. The winner teams (Mentees and Mentors) are required to be available for press inquiries, interviews, etc.

Excluded from participation are companies, winners of previous competition rounds, and other parties involved in organizing the competition, as well as their family members.



Competition Round

The competition consists of two phases: Phase 1 and Phase 2 with the final award ceremony for the top three winner (teams).

The submission deadline for application materials for Phase 1 is February 28, 2026. The selection and announcement of participants (teams) and their Mentors for Phase 2 will occur by March 31, 2026 at the latest. The first 30 selected teams will receive the AI software from InfoScape free of charge. All teams will receive CRM software from Emnis.

The submission deadline for application materials for Phase 2 is September 30, 2026. The competition winners will be awarded on November 6, 2026 at "Villa Bonn", Frankfurt.

Awards

The selection of the best participants in each phase of the European Student Challenge 2026 is based on independent expert opinions and will be carried out by Haus der Mentoren gGmbH.

At the conclusion of the competition, the best participants (teams) will be evaluated by an independent expert jury appointed by the Organizer, based on their sole discretion, and awarded according to the results of this evaluation. Mentors are excluded from jury participation insofar as it concerns their project. If none of the projects are deemed award-worthy by the expert jury, no awards will be given. The decision of the expert jury is final and will not be explained to participants. Legal recourse is excluded.

Awards are granted in the form of prize money, which is distributed among participants. In case of team participation, each registered team member (not Mentor) receives a proportional share of the prize money.

Entries not submitted in German or English are excluded from awards.

If awarded, participants generally agree, following prior consultation and individual approval, to the publication (including on the Internet video portal "YouTube") of their names, created images, video recordings, and their Competition Contributions, particularly the theme of their idea. On request, the Organizer will refrain from publishing personal participant data. Any further use of the Competition Contribution beyond conducting the competition and for retrospectives of past competitions is prohibited without the explicit consent of the participant.

Costs

Participation in the competition itself as well as in associated events is free of charge.

Participants have no claims for the reimbursement of costs arising from competition participation and preparation/submission of the Competition Contribution, particularly no claims for fees or expense allowances. Specifically, participants bear costs arising from event attendance, such as travel expenses, accommodation, and food expenses.

Organizer/Office

The Organizer of the competition is Haus der Mentoren gGmbH. The office address is:
Haus der Mentoren gGmbH



Siesmayerstr. 12
60323 Frankfurt

Confidentiality

The organizer will treat the submitted competition entries confidentially. Each participant expressly authorizes the organizer, upon accepting the terms and conditions, to pass on these entries to its employees, those responsible for the initial assessment of the competition entries, and the members of the expert jury responsible for the final evaluation. The jury members will be separately bound by the organizer to maintain the confidentiality of the competition entries. (Status 29. January 2026)