

EUCYS 2020/2021 Virtual Contest Rules

EUCYS 2020/21
SALAMANCA



Date: 04/07/21

Virtual Contest Rules Applicable to EUCYS 2020/2021

Preface

The University of Salamanca (Spain) will be the Host Organiser (“HO”) of the 2020 and 2021 European Union Contest for Young Scientists (“EUCYS”) editions, which will take place during September 2021.

Given the ongoing restrictions motivated by the worldwide Covid-19 pandemic, this year the HO and the European Commission (“EC”) have opted for a hybrid version. Virtual and face-to-face activities will be combined in order to spread Science and Research.

Rules are correct at time of publication, final rules in relation to the contest can be found at <https://eucys2021.usal.es/virtual-contest-rules>

The following rules are designed to ensure that the EUCYS 2020/2021 Virtual Contest is conducted as fairly and as efficiently as possible and are subject to change at any time at the discretion of the EC and HO. Infringement of any of the rules listed below may lead to exclusion at any time.

1. General aspects

- 1.1. These Virtual Contest Rules are supplemental to the European Union Contest of Young Scientists regulations included in Annex I of the EUCYS Guidelines, which can be found at <https://eucys2021.usal.es/wp-content/uploads/2020/02/EUCYS-Guidelines-2021-1.pdf>.
- 1.2. These Rules apply strictly to the extraordinary aspects derived from the need to carry out EUCYS 2020/2021 in an online/hybrid format.
- 1.3. Contestants and National Organisers (“NOs”) may be asked to participate in media interviews in the run up to the Contest or in the programmed Ceremonies.
- 1.4. The Contest of EUCYS 2020/2021 will consist of a Virtual Contest taking place in a Virtual Environment supplied by the HO, which will:
 - 1.4.1. host the specific Contest materials specified in 4.1.2 and 4.1.3.
 - 1.4.2. allow the Contestants to interact among themselves and with the general public in order to present their projects.
 - 1.4.3. provide an environment for carrying out the Jury interviews with the appointed Contestants, guaranteeing the highest confidentiality standards and the availability of means to share useful information.
 - 1.4.4. allow access to the streamed Ceremonies and events.

2. Acceptance Requirements

- 2.1. Contestants must accept these Rules and confirm their intent to take part in the Contest by completing the consent form details available in Annex III.
- 2.2. Additionally, besides the regular project information provided for in-person editions EUCYS, the materials made specifically for the Virtual Contest will be available through the EUCYS 2020/2021 website, the Virtual Environment, and in the in-person events taking place in Salamanca as detailed in 4.1 and 04.3.
- 2.3. Each Project will be provided with a Stand inside the Virtual Environment on which the materials and documentation detailed in 4.1.2 and 4.1.3 will be uploaded. The HO will manage these Stands to ensure fairness and confidentiality for each project, maintaining all personal information private along this process.
- 2.4. Most interactions between Contestants and the Contest should take place in the Virtual Environment provided by the HO.
- 2.5. The general public will also be able to access the Virtual Environment throughout the duration of the Contest, see the contents displayed on the Stands, and interact with the Contestants.
- 2.6. Prior to the start of the Contest, Contestants will be invited to a training session to become familiar with the Virtual Environment provided by the HO. These appointments will be communicated to the NOs, who should transfer the information to the Contestants.
- 2.7. If it is not possible for the Contestants to access the Virtual Environment, they are required to notify their NOs as soon as possible so that arrangements can be put in place.

3. Timelines (subject to change)

- 3.1. The Contest shall take place from 10:00 a.m. CEST on Friday the **17th of September 2021** until at least 17:30 CEST on Sunday the **19th of September 2021**.
- 3.2. Contestants will provide the documents and audiovisual materials detailed in 4.1 and 4.3 before the **26th of July 2021**.
- 3.3. The Jury members will run personal interviews which shall take place in the Virtual Environment or, if necessary, via any other internet meeting platform provided by the HO. These interviews will take place according to the schedule in Annex II.
- 3.4. Individual appointments for the Contestants with the Jury members will be arranged by the HO and communicated to the NOs in advance. The NOs must transfer them to the Contestants prior to the start of the Contest.
- 3.5. Winners will be announced in the Award Ceremony programmed at 12:00 p.m. CEST on Sunday the **19th of September 2021**.

4. Project and Contest Requirements

4.1. As a replacement of the Project Display described in the Article 23 of the EUCYS Rules and Regulations, Contestants must provide, in the timelines specified in 3.2, the following documents and audiovisual materials:

4.1.1. An in-depth project presentation video (no longer than 6 minutes) explaining and defending their work. This will be used only by the Jury prior to the Contestants interviews.

4.1.2. An informational/educational video (no longer than 2 minutes) summarising their project. It will be available in non-downloadable format in the Project Stand on the EUCYS 2020/2021 Virtual Environment, as well in the YouTube channel of the HO, as part of the public exhibition taking place in person in Salamanca, and in the EUCYS 2020/2021 website. It shall be used by the HO for outreach and publicity related to the EUCYS contest.

4.1.3. A poster, which can contain text, figures or any other static resource that could help present the project. It will be made available in each Project Stand of the Exhibition, as well as in the EUCYS 2020/2021 website. It shall be used by the HO for outreach and publicity related to the EUCYS contest.

Guidelines to elaborate these resources can be found in Annex I. The materials detailed in 4.1.2 and 4.1.3 are subject to the same rules as the EUCYS in-person Project Displays (Article 23 of the EUCYS Rules and Regulations), and must comply with the limitations laid out in 4.8. Project Display materials for the Virtual Contest must comply with the following:

4.2. Contestants are responsible for obtaining any required permissions to assemble any apparatus or mountings.

4.2.1. Exhibits **MUST** be safely designed and constructed and **MUST NOT** use as part of the display, any dangerous equipment or open flames, any toxic, flammable, explosive or irritant chemicals, or any pathogenic, toxigenic or allergenic organism (animals/insects, plant or microorganisms). Live mammals, birds, amphibians or reptiles **MAY NOT** be presented in exhibits.

4.2.2. No commercial logos will be allowed on the videos allocated to be accessed at the Stands used by the Contestants to display their project. This applies to the videos set out in 4.1.2.

4.3. Contestants should provide, in the specified timelines set in 3.2, a very short video-challenge (up to 5 seconds length) to be displayed at the Opening Ceremony. Guidelines to elaborate this video can be found in Annex I.

4.4. Consent to use personal data for the purpose of exhibiting the materials listed in 4.1.2, 4.1.3, and 4.3 in the Virtual Exhibition, the Ceremonies and the in-person exhibition taking place in Salamanca will be sought on the form provided in Annex III.

- 4.5. All Contestants associated with a Project must be available during the Jury evaluation appointments scheduled by the HO, to be interviewed by the corresponding members of the Jury. Logging in the Virtual Environment platform 15 minutes ahead of such appointments is highly recommended.
- 4.6. Contestants and NOs will be responsible for ensuring that the Contestants have a suitable place with camera and microphone function, and internet access with which to conduct the video interviews. Contestants should make the best use of the training appointments specified in 2.7.
- 4.7. NOs will ensure that Contestants of Projects carried out in groups are together in one place for video interviews. Only one camera per project will be displayed, unless proper justification is raised to the HO by the corresponding NO at least 15 days ahead of the EUCYS event. A team spokesperson should be appointed by each group to lead the interview, however all Contestants should participate in the interview process.
- 4.8. During the video interviews, contestants will be able to display two separate screens, one with their camera for the face to face interview, and another to display posters, charts, models, experiments or other resources as part of the interviews with the Jury, subject to the same limitations set for the Project Display materials. Also, Contestants must ensure that exhibits are fully assembled and ready for the start of the video interviews.
- 4.9. Only the named students entered into the Contest with their project may be in attendance at the video interviews. A moderator (who will be part of the HO institution) might be present at each interview to ensure that the only participants in the video interviews are the students and the judge. The moderator will also ensure that the interview is conducted in accordance with these Rules and will have the ability to pause or stop an interview at any time if they have any concerns (which may include a poor internet connection which is resulting in the interviewer and the students not being able to hear or see each other causing an impact on the delivery of the presentation).
- 4.10. Video interviews will be recorded on the Virtual Environment and will be used as part of the judging process. However, recordings will be deleted within 10 days of the end of the contest.

5. Judging & Winner Announcements

- 5.1. Projects will be assessed by the Jury, based on the written project report, the interviews and the in-depth project presentation video explained in 4.1.1.
- 5.2. The judges reserve the right to withhold awards in the event of Projects not reaching a satisfactory standard.
- 5.3. If a Project has not adhered to all the present Rules and the EUCYS Rules and Regulations, the Jury has the right to withhold awards or exclude the project at any stage during the judging process.

6. Contest & Publicity

- 6.1. Project summaries, video summaries, and the Display poster will be available in non-downloadable format on the EUCYS 2020-2021 portal accessible to the public. Additional details will also be published including Students names, school, category, county, and age group.
- 6.2. This portal will be available, at least, from Friday 17th September to Sunday 19th September 2021.
- 6.3. Whilst project detail will not be downloadable, Contestants should have regard to protecting their intellectual property rights as further detailed in the EUCYS Guidelines.

Annex I

Guidelines to elaborate the Materials to be provided for the Virtual Contest and Ceremonies

Contestants (participating teams/individuals) will remain in their countries and exhibit their projects through an online platform, where they will be able to defend their Projects before the Jury as well as to present their contents to the general attendees. For this reason, Contestants are required to record three videos with different length and features. These must be sent to the HO before 26th July 2021.

TYPES OF VIDEO AND INSTRUCTIONS

VIDEO 1: In-depth project presentation

- Purpose: Give a thorough presentation of the Project to the Jury members designated for the evaluation.
- Length: Up to six minutes (6').
- Audience: This video will only be available to the Jury, and along with the project report with figures, the poster, and the personal interview, it will be the main resource for the judging process.
- Contents: Defend the contents of the project. Start by introducing yourself and the title of your project. Finish with the main findings and the conclusions. It is up to you what style you want to follow. However, beware that it is a scientific contest, so the classic method is recommended (motivation, objectives, methodology, results and conclusions). It can include a presentation (e.g.: slide presentations, graphs...) or any other display resources (prototypes, experiments...) should you think this makes it more convincing.

VIDEO 2: Summary video

- Purpose: Present to the general public a quick view of the Project basics and highlights.
- Length: Up to two minutes (2').
- Audience: This would be equal to the physical stand should the contest take place in person. Therefore, this is what the general public will watch when clicking on your specific link within the virtual platform (September 17th-19th). Additionally, it will be screened at the in-person exhibition running in parallel in Salamanca at the time of the contest. So, local citizens and all general public that access the EUCYS website will see your recording.

- Contents: Briefly explain the particulars of your project to the general public (Tips: Think of diverse attendees; focus on the added value of your findings or its scientific/social relevance; imagine that you are informing your best friend...)

POSTER

- Purpose: This is intended to play the same role as the Project Displays in the physical Stand of in-person EUCYS editions.
- Format: PDF, PPT or image of A0 size, either in landscape or portrait orientation.
- Audience: It will be available to the general public in the Stands of the Virtual Environment, and also in the EUCYS 2020/2021 website.
- Contents: Posters should contain a header with the title of the project and the names of the Contestant(s). It should present short pieces of text, figures, photos, infographics, etc. i.e. the whole Project in a straightforward and concise way. Style is free, but, as a general guide, text should not be smaller than 20pt.

VIDEO 3: Video Challenge

- Purpose: The objective of these videos is to evidence the relevance that the Contestants have in EUCYS 2020/2021, allowing the Contestants to be acknowledged by the visitors to the in-person events taking place in Salamanca.
- Audience: It will be screened at the Opening Ceremony (September 17th).
- Length: Up to five seconds (5").
- Contents: An informal short message targeted to your fellow contestants, the general public or society as a whole (Tips: you can describe Science/Research with three words; how your team wants to be remembered, what Science/Research means for you, which scientific challenge you want to address...).

GENERAL GUIDELINES

- When recording: avoid a source of light behind you as it would shadow you, thus making it harder to identify you.
- When recording: avoid *selfie*-styled videos. Bear in mind that your result in the competition will very much depend on this. You can use some of the recording software on the Internet or ask someone to shoot it.
- The orientation for videos must be landscape. Please, do not use portrait recording.

- The recording format is quite flexible. We advise you to save it in .mp4 or .avi to help us with the management.


DEADLINE AND UPLOAD

- The deadline for uploading the videos is 26th July 2021.
- Once you have recorded your videos, please share them with your NO. Only NOs can upload the videos of their corresponding teams into the system.
- NOs will be sent a specific and customised link through which they can upload the videos.

Annex II

Schedule for Jury evaluation sessions

Hour (CEST)	17 th September 2021	18 th September 2021
09:00		
09:30		
10:00		
10:30		
11:00		
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17:30		

 Time spans assigned for Contestants interviews with the Jury.

Contestants from Countries with significantly distant time zones will be appointed during the most comfortable hour spans among those assigned for Jury evaluation above.

Annex III

Consent form to use the EUCYS 2020/2021 Virtual Contest Materials

The *Authorisation and Consent to use the EUCYS 2020/2021 Virtual Contest Materials* form can be found in the following attachment. 