WORLD CHAMBERS COMPETITION
GUIDELINES

The World Chambers Competition is organised by the International Chamber of Commerce (ICC) World Chambers Federation (WCF). It is the only award programme to recognise the innovative projects undertaken by chambers of commerce and industry from around the world. Chambers of all kinds—from bilateral, local, regional and national to public and private law—are eligible to participate.

The Competition provides a unique opportunity for chambers to:

• Showcase originality and ingenuity
• Demonstrate commitment to supporting and strengthen small- and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs)
• Improve and enhance services provided to member companies

Since its inception in 2003, the Competition has produced more than 560 case studies, showcasing chamber creativity and resourcefulness.

To be eligible for participation in the 2021 World Chambers Competition, the following requirements must be satisfied:

1. Only one project per chamber of commerce can be submitted
2. Chambers cannot re-submit a project already presented at any previous World Chambers Competition
3. The project must have been in operation and obtained significant results during a 24-month period preceding October 2021
4. A maximum one-page executive summary of the project must be included in the application
5. The complete application, which includes the executive summary, must not exceed ten pages
6. All applications must be submitted in English only
7. Chambers must submit applications electronically via the official World Chambers Competition platform which will be available in January 2021
8. Should the project qualify as a finalist, the chamber will be required to present its project to an international jury during a workshop session at the 12th World Chambers Congress in November 2021 in Dubai.

ICC World Chambers Federation reserves the right to refuse any projects that do not comply with these conditions.

Apply

Applications can be submitted from January until early June 2021.

To enter a project to the Competition, chambers must fill out the application form in its entirety. The form is easily accessible via the World Chambers Competition website.

Applications submitted by mail or as a standalone hard copy will not be considered.

Note: Finalists must be prepared to provide additional information to ICC’s World Chambers Federation and Competition judges upon request.

Submissions will be judged on the following criteria:

1. The innovative nature of the project
2. The impact of the project to the chamber network and/or business
3. Measurable outcomes, such as
   - Financial
   - Business and job creation
   - Participation rates
   - Membership recruitment
   - Involvement of members, volunteers, partners and/or businesses in the project’s implementation, etc.
4. The relevance of the project in the target category
5. Potential for the project to be successfully adopted by other chambers of commerce throughout the world
World Chambers Competition categories

Best Resilience Project

COVID-19 has disrupted the world economy. As a result of containment measures and trade restrictions, businesses have been forced to adapt their operations accordingly. Chambers have played a decisive role in addressing these challenges and improving business resilience, which has allowed businesses to better manage COVID-19 disruptions.

This category recognises chambers that have created innovative resilience initiatives to combat the economic and health consequences associated with the COVID-19 pandemic, including but not limited to technology programmes, digital platforms, risk and crisis management support, and business continuity guidelines that are designated for the benefit of their communities.

Best Digital Project

The digital revolution is impacting everything—from science and education to sustainability and governance. Both the private sector and chambers are pioneering digital solutions to transform the way their communities do business, especially when it comes to SMEs.

This category recognises chambers that have created innovative tech solutions for any services, including members retention programmes, certificates of origin, etc., that have disrupted the traditional way of doing business for themselves and/or their community.

Best Climate Action Project

Chambers play a crucial role in advancing climate action within their respective communities. Working with the private sector, government and civil society, chambers are key partners in limiting global warming to 1.5°C and transitioning to a sustainable low-carbon future.

This category recognises chambers that have developed projects that support bold action to tackle climate change and help their members and community to face and adapt to today’s climate change challenges.
Best Unconventional Project

Chambers are innovative, forward-thinking and always looking for new opportunities to challenge convention. From providing local educational opportunities to addressing the rights of migrants, chambers contribute to the long-term success of their economic communities.

This category recognises chambers that have developed unique and pioneering projects in an activity not typically associated with their everyday mission and objectives, while increasing job creation to enhance local economies.

Note: Other titular awards may be attributed by the Jury in recognition of exceptional achievements by an applicant.

World Chambers Competition judges

Judges for the Competition are appointed by the ICC WCF secretariat and consist of senior representatives of transnational, national and local chambers of commerce, as well as experts involved in chamber development activities and international organisations representatives. Judges may also include former winners and finalists of past World Chambers Competitions.

The co-organiser for the World Chambers Congress, during which the competition is held, is ineligible to enter the competition. Judges may be re-allocated to different competition sessions by the ICC WCF secretariat to ensure impartiality during the different judging phases. The ICC WCF secretariat reserves the right to refuse any competition entries that do not comply with conditions.

World Chambers Competition FAQ

Where can I apply?
You can apply on the Competition platform.

What is the deadline to submit my project?
The deadline will be in June 2021 and a precise date will be announced shortly.
What are the required formats of the application?
You are required to fill in contact information, information about your chamber and select a category into the online form. At the bottom, you can upload your project synopsis in a PDF format, along with your chamber’s logo and any pictures in any image format.

Can I submit two projects in different categories?
No, a chamber can only submit one project per Competition.

Can I include an appendix?
In case you have letters of support, articles or other items you would like the judges to see, you may include them in an appendix. The appendix cannot exceed 10 pages. Please note that the appendix is optional.

What is the maximum length for materials?
The maximum length of the appendix is 10 pages. The maximum length of the project proposal is 10 pages. Therefore, your final document cannot exceed 20 pages. Also, you are not allowed to shift your page limits (i.e., 12 pages for the appendix and 8 pages for the project synopsis).

What do I have to cover in the project proposal?
Briefly describe how your project originated based on the category selected. This includes the project’s context, innovative character, invested resources, difficulties met, the project’s short and long term impact, any measurable data, its benefits, etc.

Do I have to translate documents of support?
You do not have to translate in full documents of support included in the appendix. A short description box covering the title and a sentence or two on the articles/letters will suffice.

When will the finalists for each category be chosen?
The finalists will be announced in September 2021.

How and where will I present my project as a finalist?
A member of your chamber will present your project during the 12th World Chambers Congress in Dubai, United Arab Emirates from 23-25 November 2021.
Does ICC WCF cover travel expenses to the Congress?
No, you will have to cover your own travel expenses to the Congress. However, the presenter’s registration fee will be waived.

Is there a prize?
The winners will receive a cash prize.