

15.  
Európai Unió  
Fiatal Tudósok  
Versenye  
September 2003

15th  
European Union  
Contest for  
Young Scientists  
Budapest, Hungary



26 September 2002

Dear National Organizer

I should like to introduce the Hungarian Association for Innovation, which was established in 1990. As a professional federation the Association focuses its activities on the economy-stimulating role of innovation. Only legal entities can join the Association. It comprises more than 200 members such as universities, research institutes, innovative companies and enterprises, non-profit institutes, and six associations representing a total of 270 members. The activities of the members are grouped into the following sections: research and development, innovation infrastructure, higher education, non-profit section, entrepreneur development.

The Association represents the interests of its member companies and takes part in preparing decisions related to innovation and in elaborating domestic R+D and innovation policies. It maintains official contact with national bodies, legislators and those implementing the law, and with business federations and those organizations dealing with innovation.

The Association publishes information for its member institutes in a fortnightly NEWSLETTER. Many services for the Associations' members are provided free of charge (consulting, mediating partners, etc.), and it assists its members in gaining access to concrete financial, professional, business information and studies that help their activities related to the creation of intellectual products.

The Association has several significant talent recruitment programs, e.g.:

- it annually organizes the National Scientific and Innovation Contest for Youth linked with the EU Contest for Young Scientists
- every two years it organizes the "Step into the Future" national design contest, (in which university students may also participate)
- it organizes annually an event known as Innoforum (Exchange of Intellectual Products) as a means of promoting the selling of unrealized intellectual results.

The Innovation Association has six regional offices located in university towns and has established 11 organizations, that assist in technology transfer in Hungary such as

- the Hungarian Innovation Foundation that awards the Grand Prize for Innovation for the most important, successful Hungarian innovation of each year and provides scholarships for young students
- the Innostart Foundation for promoting innovative SME's.

Finally, may I call your attention to the enclosed materials of the 15<sup>th</sup> EU Contest for Young Scientists, viz. booklets, folding albums, and a card-shaped CD.

Yours sincerely,

Dr. János Pakucs  
President

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