

RULES FOR BALKATHON 2024 COMPETITION EVENT

It is important to note that:

1. The set of rules defined below forms the core principles governing Balkathon as a whole;
2. Each Balkathon topic might have additional and/or specific rules;
3. Balkathon does not require participation fee; it is an accessible, inclusive and sustainable event. Each registered team is expected to adhere to these values;
4. Balkathon represents a great opportunity for registered teams to meet interesting people, acquire new skills, exchange experience, and expand knowledge and their own network.

In case you have any questions or need support or clarifications, please contact Balkathon team at: contact.balkathon@rcc.int.

NOTE: In order to better follow/understand the Rules for Balkathon 2024, as well the whole process of Balkathon competition, please download and see [Balkathon Guidelines](#).

RULES:

- Only interested participants (entrepreneurs, digital marketers, programmers, developers, start-ups, students, economists, innovators, digital enthusiasts, etc.) who come from one of the WB economies can apply to Balkathon.
- Participants can register only as a team. We encourage teams composed of members from several Western Balkan economies to apply.
- The number of team members is limited to 7.
- The same team members can apply only with one topic.
- The members of the team cannot be changed during the competition.
- The registration process will be available through the Balkathon webpage www.rcc.int/balkathon, where more information could be found about the registration and the competition process.
- All registered teams, which enter the finals, are expected to take part in all/most of the activities organised during the competition and at the final event in early September 2024, including in the subsequent competition-related activities.
- The solution should be co-created and project developed during the Balkathon event you are taking part in. It is allowed to join with great draft ideas, frameworks, projects and concepts.

- It is not allowed to join with a ready-made/published/used/promoted solution. In case of breach of this rule, you will be immediately disqualified.
- You can get inspiration from existing solutions, however plagiarism, copy, infringement of industrial property or copyrights, and/or any other form of treachery or deception are strictly forbidden. You can use open source resources if you clearly attribute the sampled part(s) to their original creator(s) and if the sampled part(s) is a minor component of your solution.
- Balkathon is a multilevel hackathon where the organiser of the competition chooses one or more winning teams (solutions), might choose one or several runner-ups, or may give one or more special awards. After the registration process, the Regional Cooperation Council (RCC) will shortlist up to 18 teams that will be working with mentors, while Balkathon jury members will choose the six winners (one per Western Balkan economy) based on the set criteria. Six teams (solutions) that gather most votes are declared winners and their teams are awarded 7,000€ each. In addition, two additional special recognition awards to the best ranked qualified high school teams in the amount of 4,000€ each will be presented.
- All registered teams are requested to respect the rules defined in this document, as well as to respect and follow the instructions provided by the organiser in the published document(s) ([Balkathon Guidelines](#)), and any additional ones. If the registered teams do not have time to finish all that is requested, they should not worry: just note this during the pitch/demo in the description of the project (more info will be provided on the www.rcc.int/balkathon).
- Applicants will be disqualified from participating in Balkathon competition if they are in one of the following situations:
 - Involved in previous competitions organised by RCC¹;
 - Working in the public administration/authorities of any Western Balkan economy, including institutions such as Statistics Offices, public agencies, etc.²;
 - They hold an active contract with RCC at the time of application.
- Applicants will be disqualified at any time from the competition and/or from the final Award Ceremony if it is proved they tried to obtain confidential information, exert influence over RCC, judges or authorised contractual party during the proposal evaluation process.
- After working with mentors, only ONE team member (team leader) should upload the team's solution on to balkathon@rcc.int, and only ONE solution per team should be uploaded. A team can only upload a digital solution which they are registered for.
- If a single participant in a team breaches a rule, the participant will be excluded from their team and from Balkathon. The rest of the team can continue participating in Balkathon. If a team as a whole breaches a rule, the team will be excluded from Balkathon.

¹ This refers to individuals from the winning teams of all Balkathon editions, Futourismo, Butterfly, etc.

² This does not refer to the Universities and Faculties from the WB region.

- The organiser of the competition event shall have full discretion to decide on exclusion from the event/competition. Exclusions are definitive.
- For non-compliance with the rules by the team leader, as well as their negligent conduct during and after the competition, the team members bear the same consequences.
- If a winning team is disqualified or withdraws from the follow-up procedures, the next candidate on the list with the highest score for the relevant topic will be awarded.
- Registered participants or teams can be disqualified and excluded from Balkathon for breaching one of the mentioned rules/statements in this document, as well as [Balkathon Guidelines](#).
- The winning teams (solutions) agree to sign Agreement/Statement that will define the obligation and procedure regarding the use of RCC and EC logos, and similar matters, while the winners will receive the full award after signing of the Agreement/Statement.
- The qualified applicants receiving the special award agree to sign the Agreement/Statement with the RCC in order to regulate their rights and obligations.
- The winning teams (solutions) agree to be at RCC disposal for the preparation of the next Balkathon edition.