

Regulations of the International Economic Competition 'European Quality Leader' (4nd edition)

§ 1

- 1. The competition 'European Quality Leader', hereinafter referred to as the Competition, is organised to award products, services and brands that are characterised by high quality and compliance with the needs and expectations of consumers.
- 2. The Competition takes place annually.
- 3. The awards granted in the Competition are the Certificate and the Logo of 'European Quality Leader'.
- 4. The Competition is international, taking place simultaneously in many countries and concerns products, services and brands available in European markets.
- 5. The address of the Competition Office is: info@euro-quality.eu.

§ 2

The goals of the Competition are to:

- promote products, services and brands available in European markets, which are distinguished by high quality, modernity and compatibility with the needs and expectations of the market
- provide consumers with information about high-quality products and services, to convince them to buy these
- promote companies that are market leaders in their industries
- identify modern, innovative products and services in European markets, in line with the expectations and preferences of consumers
- increase public and media interest in the activities of companies awarded in the Competition
- develop cooperation between entrepreneurs from different European countries.

The Competition awards the following:

- a) The Certificate of 'European Quality Leader' is the main award granted in the Competition. The Certificate of 'European Quality Leader' is awarded to products, services and brands which receive at least 35 points out of a possible 60 points in the certification procedure (evaluation procedure).
- b) 'Top of the Top' is a special award for products, services and brands which receive the highest number of points from the Competition Jury. The award 'Top of the Top' is granted by the Competition Director, based on the Competition Jury's verdict.
- a) 'Leader of Innovation' is awarded to products, services and brands that are characterised by a particularly high level of originality, uniqueness and innovation. 'Leader of Innovation' is awarded by the Competition Director, based on the Competition Jury's verdict.
- b) The Silver Certificate of 'European Quality Leader' is awarded to products, services and brands which obtain the Certificate of 'European Quality Leader' for the third consecutive time.
- c) The Golden Certificate of 'European Quality Leader' is awarded to products, services and brands which obtain the Certificate of 'European Quality Leader' for the seventh consecutive time.
- d) The Platinum Certificate of 'European Quality Leader' is awarded to products, services and brands which obtain the Certificate of 'European Quality Leader' for the eleventh consecutive time.

§ 4

- 1. Companies whose products, services or brands are awarded the Certificate of 'European Quality Leader' shall have the right to use the title, logo and certificate of 'European Quality Leader' including the year in which the title was awarded, for 12 months from the date of announcement of the results of the Competition.
- 2. Titles, logos and certificates awarded as part of the Competition may be used for all purposes related to the promotion of the awarded products, services and brands, and may be used by winners of the Competition on websites, banners, promotional materials, advertisements, publications, packaging of the awarded products, etc.
- 3. Titles, logos and certificates awarded as part of the Competition are legally protected marks and may only be used by the organiser and winners of the Competition.

§ 5

- 1. Applications for the Competition may be submitted by companies and other business entities which have the authority to represent the products, services and brands submitted to the Competition.
- 2. A condition of participation in the Competition requires sending an application form to the Competition Office (e-mail), by the deadline specified by the organiser, along with a correctly completed competition questionnaire.

- 3. By entering the Competition, participants agree to share their contact details and the materials and information necessary to carry out the certification (evaluation) procedure.
- 4. The person signing the competition application form declares that they are authorised to represent the company entering the Competition, which means that they have a relevant power of attorney to effectively submit the products, services or brands indicated in the application form and competition questionnaire.

§ 6

- 1. Participants of the Competition shall provide full and truthful information that is the basis for a reliable evaluation of products, services and brands in the area covered by the certification (evaluation) procedure.
- 2. The person signing the application for the Competition declares that all data provided in it, including data referring to the number of employees of the Competition participant, are consistent with the actual state of affairs.

§ 7

- 1. The organiser submits the competition entries for evaluation to the members of the Competition Jury, who carry out the competition procedure and ultimately decide on the awarding of ranking points, which are the basis for certification.
- 2. The members of the Competition Jury are appointed by the organiser.
- 3. The Competition Jury may include scientists, journalists, managers, representatives of non-governmental organisations, marketing and public relations experts.
- 4. The Competition Jury is open to people with knowledge of management, quality management, marketing, public relations, market research and social communication.
- 5. Each application form is evaluated independently by 3 members of the Competition Jury.
- 6. The information by which members of the Competition Jury evaluate the submitted applications is confidential.

§ 8

- 1. During the competition procedure, the members of the Competition Jury may ask Competition participants to give detailed or additional information in the scope covered by the certification procedure.
- 2. Members of the Competition Jury, after a detailed analysis of applications, award ranking points to evaluate the products, services or brands submitted to the Competition.
- 3. Every member of the Competition Jury assessing an application, grants it from 0 to 20 ranking points, which means that each product, service or brand entered for the Competition can obtain a total of between 0 and 60 ranking points.

The Certificate of 'European Quality Leader' is awarded to those products, services and brands meeting the requirements of the Competition and obtaining at least 35 out of a possible 60 points in the certification procedure.

§ 10

- 1. The organiser shall not disclose the names or other data of Competition participants who have not received the certificate. The organiser can only provide the number of participants in a given Competition and the names of the participants to whom the certificate was granted.
- 2. Applications of Competition participants who have not obtained the certificate shall be returned to the participants along with the remaining documentation provided to the organiser by post to the addresses specified in the Competition applications.
- 3. Any resignation from participation in the Competition may be made no later than three days from the date of submitting the application for the Competition by email.
- 4. A declaration of resignation from participation in the Competition shall then be made in writing under pain of nullity and shall be sent by registered mail to the organiser's address.

§ 11

- 1. The Competition is not co-financed from public funds.
- 2. The Competition participant who has been awarded the certificate is obliged to pay to the organiser a one-off certification fee in the amount of:
- a) 2000 euros for companies employing from 0 to 3 employees
- b) 3600 euros for companies employing from 4 to 10 employees
- c) 4100 euros for companies employing from 11 to 50 employees
- d) 5600 euros for companies employing from 51 to 70 employees
- e) 6700 euros for companies employing over 70 employees on the date indicated in the invoice issued by the organiser.
- 3. The financial resources referred to in point 2, provision shall be spent on the administrative, organisational and public relations services of the Competition.
- 4. Cancellation of the certification fee shall be unacceptable following completion of the competition and certification procedure with a positive result (awarding the Certificate of 'European Quality Leader').
- 5. The number of employees of the Competition participant, which is the basis for calculating the amount of the certification fee, shall be determined based on the data provided by the participant in the Competition questionnaire. This number cannot be adjusted by the participant of the Competition after submitting the application for the Competition.

Certificates and awards are not of a claim nature, which means that participants in the Competition who have not been awarded certificates cannot claim any equivalents for this.

§ 13

- 1. By entering the Competition, a company agrees to participate in it under the terms of these Regulations and accepts its provisions.
- 2. By entering the Competition, a company agrees to the processing of personal data contained in the application and the competition questionnaire, for the purpose of conducting the certification procedure.

§ 14

- 1. The organiser shall have the right to revoke or suspend the right to use the certificate and all the resulting benefits if the company awarded in the Competition grossly violates the criteria for granting the certificate.
- 2. In the event of withdrawal or suspension of the right to use the certificate, the company participating in the Competition is obliged to remove information on obtaining / having the certificate, logo and other verbal and graphic elements associated with it from all places in which these elements were published.

§ 15

- 1. Any disputes between participants of the Competition and the organiser shall be settled by the court competent for location of the organiser.
- 2. By entering the Competition, the participant of the Competition acknowledges and agrees that the Competition procedure is carried out in the country where the organiser has its registered office and in accordance with the regulations applicable in the country where the organiser has its registered office.

§ 16

The organiser of the Competition is Quality Institute sp. z o.o. sp. k. with its registered office at ul. Wolnego 4/200, 40-857 Katowice, Poland.

§ 17

The Competition Director appointed by the organiser shall be responsible for the course of the competition procedure.

§ 18

Any disputes or issues not covered by these regulations shall be settled by the Competition Director.

The Regulations come into force on 2 November 2023, which day is considered the date of the announcement of the Competition.