



National Student *SPARK/CPAI* Social Entrepreneurship Awards

Competition Rules

1. Teams must have at least two members and cannot be greater than four members.
2. Teams should include at least one social science student and/or other disciplines (e.g. Business, Accountancy, Finance)
3. Teams cannot change throughout the course of the competition.
4. All new/re-entries must be original concepts not previously submitted to SPARK for consideration.
5. Students undertaking postgraduate studies in competition specified disciplines may submit applications.
6. Submitted entries must be the work of the team concerned and must include a new, valid, innovative, social entrepreneurship (business) plan.
7. The plan must include original market research and an operational strategy together with a business plan.
8. Each participating Institute will host its own internal SPARK competition and each winner will proceed to the National Finals.
9. All entrants must submit a copy of their entry to the SPARK website and to their Institute judging panel on or before the closing date.
10. Each team will be required to make a 7 minute presentation on their plan. A ten minute question and answer session will take place after each presentation. The presentation may augment the formal document but must be based on the submitted entry. A similar format will apply for the national finals.
11. Each Institute will establish an internal judging panel with a minimum membership of three people to assess all internal competition entries.
12. Internal judging panels will notify the Advisory Committee of the identities, within one week, of the selection of Institute specific winners and runners-up.
13. The National Judging Panel will be composed of reputable representatives of social entrepreneurship endeavour.
14. The panel will have a minimum of three members and a maximum of six members.
15. The National Judging Panel shall be chaired by an independent member of the panel.
16. The National Judging Panel will be advised on their role and responsibilities by the SPARK competition advisory committee.
17. Decisions made by the internal and national judging panels are final.
18. All decisions will be guided by the SPARK Social Entrepreneurship Marking Rubric – available to all entrants and downloadable from www.sparkawards.ie
19. No appeals will be considered.