



# YOUNG GLOBAL CHANGERS

## General Terms and Conditions

### 1. INTRODUCTION

By participating in the Young Global Changers Recoupling Awards (“YGC Recoupling Awards” or “Awards”), you agree to the conditions stated in this participation agreement (“Agreement”). Note that “you” or “your” refers to the interested party or applicant. “We”, “our” or “us” refers to the “Global Solutions Initiative Foundation gemeinnützige GmbH” (“Global Solutions Initiative”, “GSIF” or “Organizer”) and its affiliates and partners (collectively referred to as “GSIF”).

The YGC Recoupling Awards provide interested parties with the opportunity to compete for certain free services (described in section 6) relating to the Global Solutions Summit 2024 (“summit”), which is organized by the GSIF. In return for the possibility of successfully competing for the services, the interested party leaves the data from his/her application at the disposal of the GSIF. In the following, the term “Agreement” also pertains to the exchange of services and data outlined above.

### 2. WHAT IS THE YGC PROGRAM?

In 2017, the GSIF launched the Young Global Changers Program (“YGC Program”) which identifies, connects, and empowers young people from around the globe who are actively pushing for change in their communities and in different areas of society. Each year a new cohort of Young Global Changers from around the world joins the YGC program. Since 2017, the Young Global Changers program has attracted over 410 students and young professionals from more than 120 different countries.

### 3. WHAT ARE THE YGC RECOUPLING AWARDS?

With the YGC Recoupling Awards, the Global Solutions Initiative wants to recognize and support projects that embody the “recoupling” approach, which describes activities that aim for a better alignment of economic or political activities with social well-being and environmental sustainability. The Awards recognize individuals with leading roles in projects, start-ups, social-businesses, non-profit initiatives, or similar organizations that steer economic or political engagement towards the needs of people while aiming for environmental sustainability.

Beginning in 2024, the YGC Recoupling Awards hosts the awards in categories that acknowledge the different methods of effort towards recoupling objectives. As such, the Reimagine Business, Reimagine Social and Climate Action, and Reimagine Civic Engagement Awards were created.



### 3.1 Categories:

**(a) Reimagine Business:** This award category aims to acknowledge businesses who intentionally incorporate recoupling approaches and work towards a more sustainable social sphere and environment. Therefore, we are looking for businesses and social enterprises that implement a business model that fosters social prosperity and environmental goals.

**(b) Reimagine Social and Climate Action:** This award category aims at nonprofit projects that work directly in socially, economically, or environmentally challenged communities, empower or assist individuals or communities to tackle those challenges, or help to directly address environmental crises like biodiversity loss, pollution, or climate emergencies.

**(c) Reimagine Civic Engagement:** This award category aims at projects that encourage citizens to take part in policy decisions that affect their lives. We are looking for projects that challenge ineffective or discriminatory systems by increasing transparency and accountability and by empowering citizens, community members and disempowered groups to become more active and engage with their governments, policy makers, community leadership or other decision-making bodies.

### 3.2 Process

The application process for the Awards competition consists of several rounds.

#### **(a) ROUND 1 “Open Call for applications”**

All applicants who meet the eligibility criteria (see section 4. below) will become members of a global network of young changemakers (“YGC Extended Circle”) and will be informed regularly about activities, events, and opportunities as part of the Global Solutions Initiative’s network.

#### **(b) ROUND 2 “Semi-Finals”**

From all entries several semi-finalists will be selected. All semi-finalists will be named “2024 Young Global Changers”. Their projects will be presented on the GSIF website.

#### **(c) ROUND 3 “Finals”**

Out of all semi-finalists, 15 finalists will be selected by a jury. The finalists will receive a scholarship which will include a travel-grant to travel to Berlin, Germany to attend the 2024 Global Solutions Summit on May 6 and 7. A selection will be invited to present their project in front of a jury of renowned experts and a global audience onsite as well as digitally around the world. (For more details see section 6.3).



#### (d) THE AWARDS

From all finalists, a jury will select one winner from each of the aforementioned categories (see 3.1) to total three category winners. The Awards Categories are as follows:

- (1) Winner of the YGC Recoupling Awards - Reimagine Business
- (2) Winner of the YGC Recoupling Awards - Reimagine Social & Climate Action
- (3) Winner of the YGC Recoupling Awards - Reimagine Civic Action

Each of the three category award winners will receive prize money in the amount of €1,500.

From all finalists, a jury will also select one overall winner (“Young Global Changers Recoupling Award Winner” or “overall winner”). The overall winner will receive €3,000 for this achievement and may receive additional support for their project (For more details see section 6.4).

Details of how the jury will assess the entries can be found in a separate document „Assessment of Application” ().

## 4. WHO CAN PARTICIPATE?

To be eligible for a participation, applicants and their projects will need to fulfill certain criteria.

### (a) Eligibility Criteria for all Applicants

The following criteria need to be fulfilled by all applicants to be eligible, independent from the category in which they apply.

- **Individuals Only:** Only individual people can apply. You cannot apply as an organization, only as its representative.
- **Leading Role:** Participants should have a leading position in the project or initiative they are applying with. (This can be the founder, co-founder, project-lead, initiator or a similar role.)
- **Strong English:** Participants must have a command of the English language strong enough to present their work in front of a jury and an audience, and to participate in group conversations.
- **Age:** The Young Global Changers program aims to empower youth. Applicants should preferably be between the ages of 18 and 35.
- **Motivation:** The applicants should show motivation to become active members of a global network which aims at bringing about lasting global change.



### **(b) Eligibility Criteria for all Projects**

The following criteria need to be fulfilled by all projects to be eligible, independent from the category in which they apply.

- **Recoupling:** The project, business, or initiative with which you apply needs to aim at recoupling, i.e., a better alignment of economic or political activities with social well-being and environmental sustainability. This means putting the needs of people and environmental sustainability at the center of economic and/or political activities.
- **Organizational Stage:** The project or initiative must be beyond the idea stage. It should be currently active and running.

### **(c) Eligibility Criteria per Category**

All applicants must fulfill the criteria mentioned above. Additional criteria apply for each of the three categories. A detailed list of these criteria for each category can be found on the application page of the Young Global Changers website.

## **5. TIMELINE**

- Application Period: October 20, 2023 - November 27, 2023
- Semi-finals: December 19, 2023 - February 1, 2024
- Finals: May 6/7, 2024

## **6. SERVICES**

**6.1** All applicants who meet the eligibility criteria (see above section 4.1) will become members of a global network of young changemakers ("YGC Extended Circle") and will receive regular information about events and activities of the Global Solutions Initiative and its partners. This assumes that we can send you information via email.

**6.2** Selected applicants and their projects will be presented on the GSIF website. The materials you provide in your application will be used for this purpose. (for more details see section 8 "use of data"). All selected applicants will be recognized as "2024 Young Global Changers".

**6.3** Up to 15 finalists will be invited to travel to Berlin and attend the 2024 Global Solutions Summit (May 6/7, 2024). These finalists ("scholarship awardees") will receive a **summit scholarship** ("scholarship") which includes the following services:

- Travel expenses to and from Berlin\*
- Accommodation for the time of the Global Solutions Summit (five nights, May 3 – 8, 2024)\*\*



- Free admission to the Global Solutions Summit 2024
- Networking opportunities with representatives from academia, business, politics & civil society
- Access to a global network of like-minded Young Global Changers
- Opportunities for further engagement

*\*GSIF only reimburses travels in economy class. Visa costs are reimbursed fully. Additional costs may apply (e.g. local transportation in Berlin, food, travel or health insurance and more), these costs will not be covered by the scholarship.*

*\*\* The hotel will be arranged and paid for by the GSIF.*

**6.3.1** If the scholarship awardee cannot or does not want to travel to Berlin to attend the summit in person, they can attend the summit and present their project digitally (online). It will be of no disadvantage for the evaluation by the jury if the finalist is not able to attend the summit in person. No travel assistance or any other type of financial compensation will be awarded in case of a digital/online attendance.

**6.3.2** All travel expenses (except accommodation costs) must be paid upfront by the scholarship awardee and will be reimbursed within 6 weeks after the summit. The reimbursement of travel expenses will only be made upon presentation of original receipts, which must be submitted to GSIF. The awardee is responsible for submitting reimbursement claims. Currency fluctuations may lead to changes in the total amount reimbursed.

**6.3.3** GSIF must be consulted before any purchase is made that is subject to reimbursement. GSIF will only refund expenses that they have previously agreed to.

**6.3.4** An awarded scholarship is not transferable. In the event that the scholarship awardee is unable to travel to Berlin for reasons that lie beyond their control, costs already incurred can be reimbursed up to the amount of the total scholarship agreed upon in advance. The scholarship awardee must provide the reason for the cancellation and proof of costs incurred. GSIF will not be liable for any additional costs or damages resulting from cancellation.

**6.3.5** All scholarship awardees travel at their own risk. They must abide by all relevant entry and travel regulations of the EU and Germany. It is within the awardee's responsibility to obtain information about all relevant health and safety related regulations, including potential testing and vaccination obligations. The Global Solutions Initiative reserves the right to call for additional testing and compliance with safety obligations to enter the conference venue during the Global Solutions Summit 2024.



**6.3.6** There is no claim to an event taking place or being implemented, even if your application was successful. GSIF reserves the right to cancel the Global Solutions Summit and all related events for any or no reason at all. In case of a cancelation of the event by the organizer, for example because of local health or security obligations, the scholarship awardee can get reimbursed for costs that have incurred up to the amount of the total scholarship agreed upon in advance. No reimbursements will be made for any costs that occur after the awardee has been informed about the cancelation.

**6.4** The three Award winners will receive prize money. This prize money is paid independently of the scholarship.

**6.4.1** Depending on the placement, the prize money amounts to

- €1,500 per category award winner
- €3,000 for the overall 2024 YGC Recoupling Award winner.

**6.4.2** The YGC Recoupling Awards prize money will be disbursed within 6 weeks after the summit. The Award winner must ensure proper financial management of the prize money. It is the responsibility of the award winner to obtain information regarding taxes and connected fraud regulations; they must comply with relevant legal regulations (please note that there may be differences between EU regulations and country-specific regulations). GSIF is not obligated to provide information in this **regard**.

**6.5** GSIF reserves the right to send each scholarship awardee a separate scholarship agreement, stipulating the above stated rules in detail. The signature of this scholarship agreement is a condition precedent for scholarships.

## **7. SUBMISSIONS**

The basis for the selection of the semi-finalists, finalists and winners is the complete set of documents that needs to be submitted. In the following, the individual items and the associated conditions are discussed in more detail. For the specific evaluation criteria, it is advisable to look at the document "Assessment of Application".

**7.1** Each applicant is required to submit the following:

- (a) Personal information (name, email address, date and place of birth)
- (b) A short, written description of their project or initiative
- € A short, written explanation of how the project/initiative promotes "Recoupling".
- (d) A video presentation about the project
- € A brief biography of the applicant



**7.2** All submissions must meet the following general conditions:

- (a) The language used in your submission must be the English language.
- (b) The content of your submission must be acceptable for all viewing audiences. Materials that contain text, sound, or images that we (in our sole discretion) regard as vulgar, offensive, or inappropriate for public viewing will be automatically disqualified.

**7.3** Any submission which is incomplete or indecipherable will be deemed invalid and will be disqualified. Any submission that does not fulfill the conditions set out above will be deemed ineligible and will be disqualified.

**7.4** The winning individuals will be chosen by our jury members. The jury's decisions are final, binding, and incontestable.

## **8. USE OF DATA**

**8.1** With accepting this Agreement you consent that GSIF can safely store and process your contact details and information as well as the information you provide about your organization and your project. GSIF uses the data you provide to identify suitable candidates for participation in the Awards and the scholarship. GSIF may share the information and documents with the members of the jury and partners (including funding partners) only for opportunities relevant to you and your project/initiative.

**8.2** As part of your participation in the YGC Recoupling Awards, you may provide written and oral statements, as well as photos, documents, presentations, or other materials about you, your organization or your project. By participating in the Awards, and entering a submission, you grant GSIF a worldwide, royalty-free license to use, reproduce, publish, modify and otherwise communicate internally or to the public, these materials for marketing, promotional, and internal purposes.

**8.3** You agree that the information about your project and organization may be published on the GSIF website. We may use all materials submitted by you during the application process. The information may also be shared with other participants. GSIF will not publish or share email addresses or any other contact information on our website or anywhere else without your consent.

**8.4** The consent also applies to data collected during the summit, particularly for film and/or sound recordings made by the organizer. Applicants agree that all pictures taken of them during the summit may be reproduced, free of charge and in any form, to document the conference or to promote subsequent conferences.

**8.5** Your consent is revocable at any time (by e-mail to [contact@global-solutions-initiative.org](mailto:contact@global-solutions-initiative.org)). The update is sent in accordance with the privacy policy (<https://www.global-solutions-initiative.org/privacy-policy/>) and to advertise the GSIF's own products and services.



**8.6** Interested parties, who do not agree to the use of their data as described, are excluded from participating in the application procedure.

## **9. INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY RIGHTS**

You represent and warrant that, to the best of your knowledge, any material that you provide to us is not within the intellectual property rights of any third party, including any former or current employers. Under no circumstances will GSIF be liable for any loss, damage, claim, or expense relating to or resulting from any claim of infringement of any copyright, or other proprietary or intellectual property right of any third party, arising out of the use of the material you provided as part of the YGC Recoupling Awards. We reserve the right to take down any content that may infringe any intellectual property right.

## **10. GENERAL BEHAVIOR AND CONDUCT**

**10.1** By participating in the YGC Recoupling Awards, you agree that you will:

- (a) Always behave in a professional manner and treat all persons participating in the YGC Recoupling Awards with respect and dignity.
- (b) You must not engage in any behavior which is inappropriate, or any other form of harassment. You must not make any racist, sexist, or ageist remarks or other statements which may cause offense to anyone or make anyone feel uncomfortable.
- (c) You must not engage in any unlawful conduct.
- (d) You must not engage in any conduct which may expose other people to risks to their health and safety.

**10.2** By using social media platforms to post information related to the YGC Recoupling Awards, you agree that

- (a) You will not divulge any commercial or confidential information related to GSIF or partners that you learn over the course of the YGC Recoupling Awards.
- (b) All contents posted on social media do not infringe any intellectual property rights.

**10.3** We will not in any way be liable for any loss, damage, claim, or expense relating to or resulting from any bodily injury or death of any person, or any damage to or loss of any real and/or tangible property caused by your negligent or willful acts or omissions.

**10.4** You are obligated to treat the facilities with care as well as to observe the house rules and safety regulations of the buildings, in which the events take place; this also includes adhering to all hygiene and health safety regulations as well as possible no-smoking rules.





## 11. CANCELLATION AND REVOCATION BY THE APPLICANT

**11.1** You can cancel services resulting from this Agreement entirely or partially. The consequence of a cancellation is that the service is no longer rendered.

**11.2** If an applicant selected for participation in the YGC Recoupling Awards cancels prior to the summit for which they applied, their data is erased within four weeks. However, cancellation after the summit can solely apply to other services independent thereof; in this case, the data from the application remains in the possession of GSIF.

**11.3** Applicants, who sent an online application, have the right to revoke this Agreement within fourteen days after sending the online application without having to provide reasons. To exercise your right of cancellation, you must inform the

*Global Solutions Initiative Foundation gemeinnützige GmbH*  
*Rudi-Dutschke-Straße 26*  
*10969 Berlin*  
*E-Mail: [scholarship@global-solutions-initiative.org](mailto:scholarship@global-solutions-initiative.org)*

of your decision to cancel this Agreement in the form of a clear statement (e.g. a letter sent by post or email).

**11.4** Sending the notification exercising your right of cancellation prior to the expiration of the cancellation period suffices for compliance with the cancellation deadline. Cancellation consequences are as follows: If an applicant cancels this Agreement, GSIF will erase all data received from the applicant in line with his/her application within four weeks, at the latest, after receiving the cancellation.

## 12. OTHER CONDITIONS

By registering and participating in the YGC Recoupling Awards, you agree:

1. To abide by this Agreement between you and GSIF with respect to the YGC Recoupling Awards.
2. To abide by and accept as final and binding, all decisions made by us on matters related to the YGC Recoupling Awards;
3. That we have the right, at our sole discretion, to disqualify any participant for breach of the terms stated in this Agreement;
4. That we have the right to cancel or suspend the YGC Recoupling Awards with or without notice and for any or no reason. We will not be responsible for any damage or inconvenience caused by any cancellation or suspension of the YGC Recoupling Awards.



(This excludes costs that incur in conjunction with the scholarship and have previously been agreed to by GSIF (see above 6.3))

5. To allow us to publish your actual name, nationality, age, and information about your project/initiative in our publicity and marketing efforts for the YGC Recoupling Awards without any reference, liability, or compensation to you.
6. If you do not agree with any of these terms and conditions of this Agreement, do not register for and participate in this event.