

Ematfuba-Ami

STUDENT-LED INNOVATION AND ENTREPRENEURSHIP

Opening call: 21st June 2021
Application Deadline (**Extended**): 25th August 2021

Scope

A total of 1400 students in universities and colleges all over Eswatini will receive capacity building each year. A total of 300 students will be selected and capacitated leading to the selection of 8 participants or companies. A total of 8 student-led companies will receive seed stage funding.

Prizes

Up to E632, 000.00 Seed Capital Grant

- E135, 000.00 seed capital (1st prize winners) x 4
- E23, 000.00 seed capital (2nd prize winners) x 4

The aim is to:

- i) To increase the number of participants in innovation and entrepreneurship among students or the youth in universities and colleges.
- ii) To increase the readiness of youth-led businesses for incubation programs, access to financial services and market penetration.
- iii) To increase the contribution of youth-led businesses to employment generation and economic growth.

Who can apply?

- i) A start-up (incorporated or not) founded by an individual or team of students with each person aged 18 years or above. RSTP provides company registration services.
- ii) A startup must have a business idea or operating business in any of the following sectors: ICT and engineering; biotechnology and health; agriculture and food; and climate adaptation and environment.

Benefits of Participants

Participants will have access to the following:

- a. Co- working space and amenities;
- b. Capacity building and access to networks - training, advisory services and mentorship;
- c. Business facilitation – company registration services and market access support;
- d. Intellectual property protection services;
- e. Legal services; and
- f. Fundraising.

Selection Criteria

- a. **Relevance** - A demonstration that the proposed solution addresses a real problem faced by the people of Eswatini or presents an opportunity.
- b. **Innovation/Originality** - A demonstration that the proposed solution is new or is an improvement of an existing solution in the market.
- c. **Proof of concept or prototype** - Idea that is supported by adequate technical research and a feasible methodology that will lead to an experimental proof of concept or prototype of the solution which can be used to demonstrate the features to the customer or market-ready solutions.
- d. **Founder(s) or team strength** - Founder(s) and teams must have a long-term vision for the innovation/business, a strong work ethic, be teachable and willing to improve the technical and business know-how. They must demonstrate evidence of basic skills to develop the solution. At least one of the founders must work for the start-up on a full-time basis.
- e. **Proof of market attractiveness and product opportunity (market research)** - A clear description of the market characteristics and customers and research that confirms that the product or service will fill a gap and evidence of understanding of competitor positions, advantages, disadvantages and potential response of competitors to the proposed product or service.

Application process

Download application form at www.itbi.org.sz/ematfuba-ami/ and email the complete application form to applications to incubation@itbi.org.sz before the extended deadline date or on **25th August 2021**.