

REGULATIONS
on the Small Grants Competition within the project
«Shifting towards Ecotourism in Protected Areas through Heritage
Interpretation»

1. General Provisions

1.1. These Regulations define the conditions and procedure for conducting the Small Grants Competition within the project “Shifting towards Ecotourism in Protected Areas through Heritage Interpretation”, implemented by the National Ecological Centre of Ukraine with the support of the International Visegrad Fund in partnership with research institutions and organizations from the Czech Republic, Poland, Hungary, Slovakia, and Ukraine (<https://necu.org.ua/proyekty/heritagev4ua/en/>).

1.2. The purpose of the competition is the development and implementation of innovative conservation projects by Ukrainian and foreign students, postgraduates, and young scientists in the National Nature Parks of the Ukrainian Carpathians.

The implementation of the small grants will contribute to:

- popularizing project developments of Ukrainian and foreign students, postgraduates, and young scientists among the business and scientific community;
- stimulating innovative activities and solutions aimed at the recovery and sustainable development of Ukraine;
- searching for and encouraging potential investors for the implementation of new projects of international cooperation.

1.3. The competition is carried out on the basis of cooperation between the National Ecological Centre of Ukraine and the National Nature Parks of the Ukrainian Carpathians (Hutsulshchyna NNP, Verkhovynskyi NNP, Vyzhnytskyi NNP, Carpathian NNP) — the project partners in the implementation of “Shifting towards Ecotourism in Protected Areas through Heritage Interpretation”.

1.4. The small grants are aimed at supporting creative initiatives involving youth — Ukrainian and foreign students, postgraduates, and young scientists — in the process of sustainable development of protected areas. The competition is conducted on the principles of voluntariness, openness, and transparency.

2. Terms of Participation

2.1. Students, postgraduates, and young scientists who are registered and active participants in the main activities of the project “Shifting towards Ecotourism in Protected Areas through Heritage Interpretation” may take part in the competition.

2.2. Submitted project proposals must be original, not previously implemented, and must comply with the established formatting requirements, according to which

the general provisions relevant to the topic, the goal, objectives, and methods of achieving the goal are to be described concisely and clearly (see Annex 1).

2.3. The call for project proposals will be announced starting from June 1, 2025. Applications will be accepted until August 31, 2025. The announcement of the competition results is expected during September 2025. The project implementation period is from October 1, 2025, to December 1, 2025.

2.4. The financial management of the approved projects will be carried out by the National Ecological Centre of Ukraine.

2.5. Project proposals submitted after the deadline specified in the announcement will not be considered. Project proposals are accepted in electronic format.

3. Funding within the Competition

3.1. The average requested grant amount that an applicant may claim is 81,000 UAH. The expected grant amount must not exceed the total necessary expenses provided for in the project budget. The remaining expenses must be covered by the project participant organization from funds raised from other sources or from its own contribution. The own contribution may be provided in the form of non-financial resources or contributions from other sources, including resources of the project partners.

3.2. The funds provided within the framework of the competition are allocated for targeted use and may not be used for:

- for carrying out activities that violate the current legislation of Ukraine;
- for carrying out activities not related to the project submitted to the competition;
- for covering the organization’s debts and/or fines, as well as related fees and legal expenses;
- for conducting scientific research and development;
- for paying for personal medical treatment, education or scholarships for education, recreation;
- for contributions, donations, or gifts to private individuals or organizations;
- for entertainment expenses: concerts, ceremonies and related costs, including meals, accommodation, rental, transport, alcohol, and tips;
- for purchasing goods or services for the personal use of the organization’s employees.

- 3.3. Activities that may be supported within the framework of this Competition:
- organization of public events (public hearings, discussions, community meetings, round tables, trainings, conferences, etc.);
 - publication and dissemination of informational materials, printed and electronic editions, brochures, and others;
 - information campaigns, if they are part of broader activities.

This list is not exhaustive.

3.4. Expenses incurred before the start of the project implementation period or after its completion, as well as those exceeding the approved amount of support, are not reimbursed.

3.5. Under the terms of this competition, the possibility of travel to the project implementation site is provided.

3.6. Project expenses are covered exclusively by the National Ecological Centre of Ukraine through direct payment for services/materials/goods on the basis of invoices provided by the grantees. Project funds are not transferred to grantees, except in cases of reimbursement for travel, accommodation, and meals necessary for project implementation.

3. Main Criteria for Selecting Competition Winners

4.1. The competition committee (*Annex 2*) evaluates the submitted project proposals in terms of:

- relevance of the project and its practical significance (consistency of the material with the objectives of protected area activities);
- content quality of the presented material (the authors' attitude toward the problem, a comprehensive approach to the topic);
- illustrative and graphic design (availability of diagrams, drawings where necessary).

4.2. Criteria for evaluating the submitted project proposals:

No	Evaluation Criteria	Maximum Score
1	Compliance of the project application with the purpose of the Competition	10
2	Organizational capacity of the project team	5
3	Relevance of the project for the community/region	15
4	Consistency of the proposed activities with the purpose	20
5	Realism and measurability of results	10
6	Level of involvement of the target group and community	15
7	Long-term impact of the project	10
8	Justification of the required financial resources	15
Total Score		100

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Small Grants Program within the Project
«Shifting towards Ecotourism in Protected Areas through Heritage Interpretation»

Application Form

1. Project title.
2. Amount required for project implementation.
3. Expected funding from NECU.
4. Participants (project team).
5. Phone, e-mail.
6. Full name of the project leader.

PROJECT DESCRIPTION

1. The problem addressed by the project.
2. Project goal and objectives.
3. Expected results.
4. Project implementation plan (calendar plan and list of activities aimed at achieving the defined objectives, with corresponding implementers). Each activity description must clearly define it and include quantitative indicators and performance metrics.
5. Resources required for project implementation.
6. Budget:

№	Budget line	Number of Units	Implementation Period	Amount Expected from NECU	Contribution from Other Sources	Total Amount

Expected grant amount: 81000 UAH

Grants must not be used for the payment of salaries or for the purchase of office equipment or furniture.

The competition committee

1. Blyzniuk Mykola Mykolaiovych
2. Havryliuk Ruslan Borysovych
3. Mykhailenko Valerii Petrovych
4. Michal Medek
5. Ivan Matušek
6. Khrystynchenko Yuliia Kostiantynivna