Project Submission for the InnovaCities 2025 Regenerative Innovation Competition

Location: Foz do Iguaçu – PR.
Dates: September 15-17, 2025.
Deadline for applications: July 31.

1. Team (there is no minimum number of participants). If there are more than 3 members, please add new fields with the information about the Team).
Participants must be at least 16 years old.

1.1. Project coordinator
Name:
Date of birth:
CPF:
Email:
Whatsapp:

2. School/Company/Organization/Institute:
Name:
CNPJ:
State/Municipality:

2. Project

2.1. Project Name:
2.2. Brief description of the Project, Product or Business (maximum 500 words):
2.3. Category (please refer to Annexes I and II of this document to identify the category to which the project most closely adheres: ⬜**Urban Sustainability** ⬜**Governance and Inclusive Public Policies** ⬜**Resilient Cities** ⬜**Diversity and Technology for Equity** ⬜**New Regenerative Economic Systems**
2.4. Clearly present the main innovations to be developed, under development, or developed and applied, providing an analysis of the expected or generated (proven) impacts (no more than 500 words)

2.5. Key performance indicators for core technologies or future technologies (no more than 1000 words)
2.6. Innovation points and characteristics (maximum 800 words)
2.7. Implementation feasibility and implementation plan (no more than 1,000 words)
2.8. Meaning and regenerative value (maximum 800 words)
2.9. Access links to Pitchdeck, video, photos and other demonstration materials.

3. Submission of the registration form

After completing the form, please send it to the following email address: mariangela.abipir.ifia@gmail.com or, if you have any questions about completing the form, please send a message to this same email address.

4. Evaluation criteria

4.1. Presentation: will take into account the technological forecast (how far the solution is ahead of its time), socio-environmental relevance, presentation of the solution, and performance of the Team members.

4.2. Demonstration of the project, product or business (on video and in person): quality of the prototype/project/product/business and its degree of development, degree of practical applicability in solving real challenges, quality of the video or in-person presentation.

4.3. Performance in the Evaluators' questions: demonstration of the degree of innovation of the solution, market potential, impact, viability, and performance of the Team.

5. Awards and announcement of winners

The members of the Teams that rank in the top 3 in each category will be awarded medals and certificates validated internationally by ABIPIR, BRICS Academy and IFIA.

The winning projects will also be widely publicized in the national and international media through the organizers' channels, such as the IFIA website (https://ifia.com/latin-america/) and the BRICS Cooperation Hub

(https://www.brics-ch.org.br/), which reach dozens of countries.

6. Guidelines for participation

6.1. Acceptance of Standards and Results

- Submission of this form by the Project Coordinator implies full agreement with the selection and judging rules established by the event, as well as with the results announced by the Judging Committee.
- No appeal or questioning will be allowed after the results have been announced.

6.2. Data Processing (LGPD)

- The data provided will be used exclusively for the purposes of evaluating and organizing the event, in accordance with the General Data Protection Law (LGPD – Law No. 13,709/2018).
- By registering, the person responsible agrees to the storage and processing of the information provided, respecting the principles of confidentiality and legitimate purpose.

6.3. Public Disclosure of Projects

- The registered projects may be presented publicly in different formats (e.g. prototypes, videos, banners, presentations, etc.).
- The General Coordination of the event is not responsible for any copies, unauthorized reproductions or improper use of projects that are not properly protected by intellectual property mechanisms (patents, trademarks or copyrights).
- It is recommended that participants ensure the legal protection of their creations before submitting.

6.4. Responsibility of the Project Coordinator

- The Project Coordinator declares to be aware of and in agreement with all the conditions above, assuming full responsibility for the information provided and for the project's compliance with the event rules.

By submitting this form, you confirm that you have read, understood and fully accept these guidelines.

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Name and Signature of Project Coordinator

(Digital signatures will be accepted, preferably through the Gov.br platform)

ANNEX I – Description of Categories

	Categories	Description
1	**Urban Sustainability**	Innovative solutions that promote zero-carbon cities, with effective waste management, renewable energy and environmental quality. Consideration is given to the measurable reduction of CO_2 emissions or ecological footprint, efficiency in the use of resources (water, energy, materials), contribution to global sustainability goals (SDGs/Agenda 2030), use of disruptive technologies (e.g. IoT for monitoring, AI for optimization), scalability and adaptability to different urban contexts, clear implementation plan and cost-effectiveness, partnerships with public/private sectors and community engagement, and a sustainable business model.
2	**Governance and Inclusive Public Policies**	Projects that use technology for transparency, citizen participation, digital inclusion and social equity. Considerations include socio-environmental impact, promotion of inclusion (gender, race, PWDs) and reduction of inequalities, improvement in the provision of public services (health, education, mobility), citizen participation mechanisms (e.g., collective decision-making platforms), technological innovation, the use of open data, blockchain or AI for decision-making, originality in technological application (e.g., gamification for engagement), viability, alignment with existing legal frameworks and policies, the ability to replicate in other cities, and financial sustainability.
3	**Resilient Cities**	Solutions for climate adaptation, crisis response (natural disasters), public health, community cohesion, accessibility. Resilience, emergency preparedness (e.g. early warning systems), reduction of social and infrastructural vulnerabilities, inclusion of minority and/or marginalized groups in resilience strategies, social innovation, participatory methodologies (e.g. citizen labs), creative use of technologies or strategies for community

		mobilization, feasibility, public-private partnerships, intersectoral partnerships (government, NGOs, academia).
4	**Diversity and Technology for Equity**	Innovative solutions that combat discrimination, promote universal accessibility or empower minorities. Consideration is given to equity, quantifiable impact on underrepresented groups (e.g. women, LGBTQIA+, indigenous people and foreigners), accessibility (e.g. solutions for PWDs, the elderly, low-income), inclusive technology, universal design or assistive technologies, education and training of minorities, sustainability, ongoing engagement with benefited communities, and inclusive financing models.
5	**New Regenerative Economic Systems**	Innovative solutions that develop sustainable, circular and regenerative economic and business models, promoting economic equity and resource conservation. Essential for building economic resilience and long-term environmental sustainability, decoupling economic growth from resource depletion and environmental degradation. They aim to benefit communities, preserve natural resources and foster a virtuous cycle of valorization and restoration.

ANNEX II - Examples of innovations for each of the 5 categories

Here are 3 examples of innovative solutions for each category of the BRICS Innovations Technology Competition, making it easier to identify the most suitable category for participants' projects.

These examples help to contextualize each category and guide participants in making the right choice. If a project combines multiple categories, it is worth prioritizing the one that best defines its core innovation.

1. Urban Sustainability

1.1. Sponge Cities: Sponge cities use green infrastructure, such as parks, rain gardens, green roofs, and wetlands, to absorb and filter rainwater. In China, cities such as Shanghai and Wuhan have been redesigned to capture up to 70 percent of

rainwater, reducing flooding, replenishing groundwater, and improving urban biodiversity. The regenerative aspect goes beyond minimizing damage, restoring the natural ecological function of the soil, increasing green areas, and benefiting the local microclimate.

1.2. Urban Reforestation and Regenerative Agriculture: integration of native trees, urban gardens and community gardens that restore biodiversity and improve the carbon cycle in cities. In Medellín (Colombia), the "Green Corridors" project planted thousands of native trees and plants, creating ecological corridors that connect parks and capture CO_2, in addition to reducing urban temperatures. The regenerative aspect aims to recover degraded soils and create new habitats, promoting a positive relationship between nature and the city, going beyond neutralizing impacts.

1.3. Living buildings and regenerative bioarchitecture: buildings that integrate living systems, such as green walls, bioactive facades and biodegradable materials, making buildings an active part of the urban ecosystem. The "Bosco Verticale" building (Milan, Italy) houses more than 900 trees on its balconies, filtering pollutants, sheltering fauna, producing oxygen and reducing temperatures. The regenerative aspect considers buildings that cease to be passive or merely "green" and begin to regenerate the quality of air, soil and local biodiversity.

Regeneration is not just about avoiding impact, but restoring, revitalizing and creating conditions for nature and cities to thrive together.

2. Governance and Inclusive Public Policies

2.1. Regenerative Participatory Budgeting: governance tool where the population directly decides how part of the public budget will be invested, focusing on initiatives that not only meet social demands, but also regenerate natural resources and strengthen community bonds. In Porto Alegre (Brazil), participatory budgeting was expanded to include projects for the restoration of green areas, ecological infrastructure and sustainable social housing, leading to an urban regeneration that meets integrated social and environmental needs. The regenerative aspect includes different social groups in the decision, directing resources to initiatives that restore ecosystems and stimulate social justice.

2.2. Community Regenerative Governance Councils: collegiate bodies formed by residents, experts, organizations and government, responsible for making collaborative and regenerative decisions for neighborhoods and cities. In Mexico City, the Community Water Management Councils program has enabled local communities to directly participate in urban water management, promoting the restoration of urban rivers, the protection of springs and the inclusion of indigenous peoples in decision-making processes. The regenerative aspect gives real power to

the community, restoring natural systems and strengthening the social fabric, while respecting traditional knowledge.

2.3. Public Policies for the Rights to Nature and Regenerative Environmental Justice: Laws and policies that recognize nature as a subject of rights, guaranteeing historically excluded communities as protagonists in the regeneration of territories. In Ecuador (the first country to include the rights of nature in the Constitution), public policies have enabled indigenous communities to lead projects to restore forests, protect springs and recover degraded ecosystems, promoting inclusion and environmental regeneration. The regenerative aspect promotes ecological justice combined with social justice, giving voice and resources to those who most depend on and protect natural resources.

Regenerative innovation in governance and public policies includes the population in the processes, prioritizes social and ecological justice, and regenerates relationships between people and nature.

3. Resilient Cities

3.1. Green Infrastructure for Water Resilience: use of floodplain parks, urban lakes, green roofs and rain gardens integrated into the city to deal with floods, droughts and promote environmental regeneration. In Copenhagen (Denmark), multifunctional parks were implemented that, on dry days, function as recreational areas, but during heavy rains, they store and drain water slowly, preventing flooding and restoring the natural water cycle. The regenerative aspect, in addition to reducing disaster risks, produced the regeneration of urban biodiversity and improved the microclimate.

3.2. Regenerative and Decentralized Energy Communities: neighborhoods or urban cooperatives that produce, store, and share renewable energy locally, promoting self-reliance, social justice, and environmental restoration. Freiburg (Germany), known as an “Eco-City,” encourages the installation of community solar panels and storage technologies. Residents generate their own energy, share surpluses, and reinvest profits in local regenerative projects such as urban reforestation. The regenerative aspect of the project reduces dependence on large infrastructure, revitalizes the social fabric, and reinvests in environmental restoration.

3.3. Community-Built Climate Adaptation Plans: urban plans developed collaboratively, with active citizen participation, prioritizing nature-based solutions (e.g. planting green corridors) and strengthening social resilience.

New York developed the “Rebuild by Design” program after Hurricane Sandy, with direct community involvement in the creation of projects that restore coastal areas, increase green areas and include flexible infrastructure that is adaptable to climate

change. Regarding the regenerative aspect, in addition to protecting vulnerable areas, the projects restore natural habitats and give local communities a voice in the process of transforming the city.

Resilient cities with regenerative innovation rebuild urban ecosystems, promote social inclusion and increase the capacity to respond to environmental, climate and social crises.

4. Diversity and Technology for Equity

4.1. Inclusive Data Technologies for Vulnerability Mapping: participatory platforms that use technology to collect and map data from underrepresented populations, including aspects of race, gender, income and location, to identify real needs and guide regenerative public policies. The “Map of Inequality” project in São Paulo uses open data and citizen collaboration to highlight territorial inequalities and propose urban interventions that restore degraded spaces, prioritizing vulnerable communities. Through its regenerative aspect, technology ceases to be neutral and begins to repair historical inequalities, stimulating urban transformations based on social justice.

4.2. Digital Education and Training for Diverse Populations: technological programs aimed at the inclusion of minority groups (women, black people, indigenous communities), offering training in digital skills, programming and innovation to create new leaders and agents of change. The “Programaria” initiative in Brazil focuses on expanding women’s access to technology and programming, forming support networks to create technological projects that solve problems in their own communities. Due to its regenerative aspect, in addition to combating inequalities, it multiplies opportunities, giving voice to emerging solutions coming from historically excluded groups and promoting diversity in the technology sector.

4.3. Regenerative Collaborative Economy Platforms: digital tools that connect people from different backgrounds to share resources, spaces, knowledge and services, promoting economic inclusion and urban and social regeneration. The “Banco Palmas Digital” app (Ceará) is a digital community bank that offers microcredit, a digital wallet and a marketplace for residents of the outskirts of cities, stimulating local entrepreneurship, conscious consumption and the regeneration of low-income territories through the circulation of local wealth. The regenerative aspect presents Technology used to strengthen local economies, reduce financial exclusion and restore autonomy to vulnerable communities.
Regenerative innovation in Diversity and Technology for Equity seeks to use technological potential to correct inequalities, amplify diverse voices and create more

inclusive and fair urban systems.

5. New Regenerative Economic Systems

5.1. Social Currencies and Regenerative Community Banks: local financial systems that create their own currencies or community banks to stimulate the local economy, support small businesses, promote financial inclusion and reinvest in regenerative socio-environmental projects. Banco Palmas in Fortaleza (CE) created the social currency “Palma” to be used in businesses in the outskirts of the city and reinvested in training, green infrastructure, urban gardens and environmental projects in the neighborhood. The regenerative aspect relates to the local circulation of money, multiplies opportunities, strengthens social ties and fosters initiatives that regenerate the territory.

5.2. Regenerative Cooperatives and Shared Ownership Enterprises: collectively managed economic organizations, where workers and the community decide together on the use of profits and resources, always prioritizing actions that restore environments and promote social well-being. The Brazilian agroforestry cooperative COOPERCUC (Bahia) brings together small producers from rural communities to sell agroecological products and reinvest in reforestation, agroforestry systems and environmental education. The regenerative aspect has promoted the generation of sustainable income, the valorization of local knowledge and the recovery of degraded areas, promoting economic production that heals the environment.

5.3. Regenerative Companies and Circular Economy Models: Companies that go beyond sustainability, designing products and processes to restore, renew and regenerate the environment, adopting waste recycling, the use of natural materials and regenerative production processes. The design company Bambutel (Brazil) uses bamboo and local waste to create furniture and utensils. The business reinvests part of its profits in reforesting bamboo forests, empowers communities and gives back to the environment more than it takes out. The regenerative aspect involves transforming waste into resources, generating a positive environmental impact and benefiting nearby communities, creating a virtuous cycle of abundance.
Regenerative innovation in new economic systems involves: community currencies and banks that circulate wealth locally and regenerate territories; cooperatives and shared ownership companies focused on agroecology, reforestation and social justice; and circular economy companies that give back more to the environment and society than they take out.