

Stone Soup Award on Research in Social Innovation

2021 Award Regulation

Objectives

Stone Soup Consulting has, since its beginning in 2008, developed an ethics and social responsibility policy that led to the creation of a fund that is applied in actions of social interest. The Award on Research in Social Innovation was launched in 2012 to support postgraduate research initiatives on social innovation around the world. To do so, a special fund was created with a percentage of the income generated by Stone Soup Consulting's projects.

In 2021, **the fourth edition of the award will highlight research projects studying diversity and inclusion in the workplace.** We want to answer to the following question: how can diversity and inclusion in the workplace leverage social innovation?

Diversity and inclusion are amongst Stone Soup's main priorities to realise our vision and mission. At Stone Soup Consulting we believe that efficient organisations will drive more impactful societies. This vision goes hand in hand with our style of work: we promote teamwork, participatory decision-making processes, purpose-driven leadership and trust in our client relationship management, among other, we strive for a world where all organisations are impact-driven and are effective and efficient in achieving their impact goals, thus ensuring that no one is left behind, and that human society is able to live within the environmental boundaries of our planet.

To further develop this commitment, we have produced important corporate documents such as our [Diversity and Inclusion Policy](#) and [Stone Soup's Code of ethics](#). Since 2016 we are also a certified B Corporation, a signatory member of the European Diversity Charter. Stone Soup is also a Secretary of the General Assembly of the Association for the Promotion of Diversity and Inclusion.

In 2012, the first edition of Stone Soup's Award recognised a research project on Entrepreneurial Learning realised by Ricardo Zózimo, who was then a PhD student and Entrepreneurship tutor at Lancaster University (United Kingdom). In 2015, Stone Soup dedicated its second edition to recognise "Materiality in charity reporting", a research project presented by Katherine Ruff, who was then a PhD student in Accounting at York University (Canada). More recently, Nuno Archer won the Stone Soup Award 2019 with his research "Psychosocial development and student engagement in school: a study in basic and secondary education", based in Portugal.

Definition

For the purpose of this award, diversity and inclusion in the workplace refer to the set of strategies, policies, and missions adopted by an organisation to create and encourage an inclusive workplace that attracts a diverse pool of talent from various cultural backgrounds.

Diversity in the workplace refers to an organisation's workforce comprising people from different genders, sexual orientations, religions, ethnicities, ages, or any other type of specific characteristic. Inclusion in the workplace means ensuring that every employee feels included and part of the team.

Social innovation is defined as new ideas that solve existing social, cultural, economic and environmental challenges for the benefit of people and the planet.

Scope

The 2021 edition of the award will recognise a research project that focuses on diversity and inclusion in the workplace to drive social innovation.

The research should have started at the latest during the first semester of 2021 and will have to be finished before the third semester of 2022.

Applicants

- Applicants must be post-graduate students or researchers inside organisations that are undertaking a dissertation on issues related to Diversity and Inclusion.
- Applicants from all over the world are invited to apply, providing their research project is carried out in English, Spanish, Portuguese or French.
- Only individual submissions will be accepted.

Process and deadline

The deadline for applications is **November the 12th**, 2021. Please access the application form [here](#).

Phases:

1. Submission of application form. The [form](#) must be duly filled and submitted by November the 12th, 2021 at 8 pm GMT.
2. Delivery of further information and documentation. Semi-finalists must answer the selection panel's questions and provide further information or documentation if asked.
3. Selection of finalists (5 to 10 top projects)
4. Final decision
5. Delivery of the Award

Selection panel and decision

[Stone Soup Consulting's partners](#) compose the selection panel of the award.

The decision of the selection panel is final and cannot be disputed.

The winner of the award will be announced on December the 14th, 2021, through Stone Soup Consulting's website. All semi-finalists will be informed of the outcome of their applications by e-mail.

Award

The award is the recognition of a deserving research project in social innovation. The recipient of the award will:

- be mentioned in all Stone Soup Consulting communication channels
- presented to international media
- conduct a webinar in English explaining the research to Stone Soup's broad and international audience
- receive a symbolic prize money award of 5,000€. (This sum will be given to the winner once he/she is announced).

Selection Criteria

- Existence of co-funding for the research project
- Quality of the research proposal
- Uniqueness of the research theme studied (i.e. little or no studies have been done around this subject or using the focus proposed in the research project)
- Relevance of the research theme for the social innovation sector
- Academic excellence of the applicant (applicants with a bachelor or master and with excellent academic achievements)
- Research done in partnership between several entities
- Priority will be given to research proposals that are already being developed or that will start at the latest in the last semester of 2021

Documentation and contracts

All applicants must provide documentation that supports the veracity of their statements, namely diplomas, approval of research project and research information. The winner of the award will sign a formal contract with Stone Soup Consulting which states formal conditions on both sides in terms of information, application of prize money, deliverables and deadlines.

Research project

When the final report of the research project is available, Stone Soup Consulting will publish it on its website.