

## **AUIS Innovation Awards 2022 Judging Process**

The AUIS Entrepreneurship and Innovation Center (AEIC) aimed to have a completely objective and impartial judging process at the heart of the AUIS Innovation Awards (AIA 2022). Accordingly, a total of ten judges were selected to evaluate the applicants based on their experience and expertise in their respected fields and innovation as well as their well received and prominent personalities. The selected judges were working and evaluating independently from each other and AEIC to avoid any conflict of interest and bias. Additionally, AEIC selected AIA 2022 judges based on the judges having no personal or professional relations to the applicants. All the judges signed confidentiality agreements prior to having access to any of the application materials.

Since applications were received in all three languages (English, Kurdish, and Arabic), the respected judges were native speakers of the language they were evaluating in. AEIC pre-set six criteria for the judges to use in evaluating the submitted projects. These criteria were based on how well the questions were answered in the application. Judges were given an approximately equal number of projects to review and score. A numbering system was set to evaluate how well each criterion was met. The six judging criteria for the AUIS Innovation Awards (AIA 2022):

- ❖ What problem/need(s) were the project responding to?
- ❖ What solution/value proposition(s) the project presented?
- ❖ How effective were the solution(s)?
- ❖ What were the sustainability plans for the project?
- ❖ What was the extent of outreach to people? Who did the project impact?
- ❖ How well the project used technology in their solution(s)?

After the applications submission was closed on December 2, 2022, 11:50 PM, the judging process started and was completed in two different phases:

### **Phase One**

All 78 applications went through a first round of evaluation and scoring by a total of eight judges. During this phase of the judging process the judges had no communication with

each other and were unaware of the details of how the other judges were evaluating. Two of the highest scored applications from each judge were moved to phase two.

## **Phase Two**

The shortlisted applications were evaluated and scored by two new judges, who were not involved in phase one, nor did they communicate any evaluation details between them. The same criteria and scoring system were used to evaluate the shortlisted applications. At this point each shortlisted application received two evaluations from two different judges and an average of the two judges' scores were used for a final score.

Five applications with the highest scores were selected as winners and five applications with the second highest scores were selected as semi-finalists. In conclusion, the shortlisted applications were evaluated, scored and reviewed by a total of three judges; one in phase one and two in phase two.

The semi-finalists and the winners of the AUIS Innovation Awards (AIA 2022) were revealed during the public ceremony on January 13, 2022. The judges' profiles were kept anonymous until the ceremony night. Prior to announcing the results, the profiles of the judges and the judging process was shared with the audience of the event.