DIGITAL SOLUTIONS FOR THE UN SDGS
ABOUT WSA

WSA is a global network of start-ups, entrepreneurs, thought leaders, mentors, jurors, IT experts, governments and international organisations.

WSA works in joint with national eminent experts in over 180 UN member states

WSA aims to select and promote local digital innovation with high impact on improving society

Organized in the framework of the United Nations World Summit on the Information Society (UN WSIS) supporting the UN Post-2025 Sustainable Development Agenda

Conducted since 2003 by a not-for-profit organisation based in Austria, Europe

Diverse, democratic, inclusive and highly competitive award system following the UN model: 1 nomination / country / category, 600 high quality nominations from 120 countries / year

Recognizing the world’s most innovative digital solutions with a strong impact on society WSA is a worldwide quality seal

Encouraging young entrepreneurship and digital creativity

International events, workshops, seminars and meetings throughout the year

Visibility local - regional - global
WSA & THE UNITED NATIONS

WSIS Action Lines

C1. The role of public governance authorities and all stakeholders in the promotion of ICTs for development
C2. Information and communication infrastructure
C3. Access to information and knowledge
C4. Capacity building
C5. Building confidence and security in the use of ICTs
C6. Enabling environment
C7. ICT Applications:

- E-government
- E-business
- E-learning
- E-health
- E-employment
- E-environment
- E-agriculture
- E-science

WSA Categories

- Government & Citizen Engagement
- Health & Well Being
- Learning & Education
- Environment & Green Energy
- Culture & Tourism
- Smart Settlements & Urbanization
- Business & Commerce
- Inclusion & Empowerment

C8. Cultural diversity and identity, linguistic diversity and local content
- World Summit Award awards local content and accepts applications in all local languages

C9. Media

C10. Ethical dimensions of the Information Society

C11. International and regional cooperation
- World Summit Award works with a global network in all UN member states and strengthens regional networks through regional awards and meetings

WSA Chairman Prof. Peter A. Bruck with Houlin Zhao, SG ITU
with H.E. Mukhisa Kituyi, DG UNCTAD
with H.E. Ahmad Alhendawi, UN Secretary General’s Envoy on Youth
WSA Context

WSA is a unique awards system, selecting and promoting local digital innovation with high impact on improving society.

WSA has been initiated in 2003 by Austria in the framework of the UN World Summit on the Information Society (UN WSIS) held in Geneva. The declared aim of the conference was to make Information and Communication Technology (ICT) accessible to everyone and to bridge the digital divide.

The WSA categories are implementing WSIS Action Line C7.

WSA outlines its strategy to put the UN Sustainable Development Goals into action.
WSA Mission

The challenge is and remains worldwide: **Bridge the worldwide divides.**

Be it disparities in the access to water and energy, gender inequality and education opportunities, or differences in regards to access to information - the global divides are manifold and affect us all.

Purpose driven, digital content and technology has the potential to create a more **equal, just and sustainable society.**

**WSA** focusses on digital innovation **solving local challenges enabling a positive, sustainable value for society.**

**WSA** combines an ongoing series of **international events and activities with a global network of start-ups, social entrepreneurs, mentors, jurors, speakers, experts, government leaders, academia and civil society.**

**WSA is an international platform for cutting edge examples on how ICTs can have an impact on society.**
Sachi Wickramage, WSA Expert:

“WSA contributes to the UN Sustainable Development Goals agenda by giving an opportunity to digital innovators from over 180 UN countries to showcase their ability to accelerate positive Social Impact by aligning their work to the 17 SDGs.”
WSA Timeline 2020 / 2021

- **April**: WSA Call
  - National Contests and preselections in more than 182 countries

- **May**: International Nomination
  - WSA experts nominate national winners into WSA database

- **June/July**: WSA Online Jury
  - Selection of the 40 WSA Winners

- **August**: WSA Grand Jury
  - Announcement of WSA shortlisted products/category

- **September/October**: Closing of WSA Call
  - August 31 st

- **November**: Grand Jury Meeting
  - Selection of the 40 WSA Winners

- **December**: WSA Winners
  - Announcement of 40 WSA Winners & 5 WSA Young Innovators

- **January/February**: Winners Award Ceremony
  - & Selection of the WSA Global Champions

- **March**: WSA GLOBAL CONGRESS
What WSA is looking for...

The creative & smart use of ICT’s to solve local issues. Content is more important than tech innovation. Be it a simple SMS based application, a creative app, an online platform or a content driven hardware solution - it’s the unique content and the high local impact that counts.

Judges focus on the appropriateness of the application - does the application face the local challenges and needs?

Matching to the proposed target group.

Accessibility for users: the database application for WSA must be in English, the project’s content can be in any language of the UN.

In the best case, the nominations should be transferrable to other countries/regions, or be best practices.

ICT’s being used for social impact and tackling the UN SDG’s.

WSA winners have to be introduced to the market – no proto-types or beta versions; they have to prove already some local impact and market relevance.

They should also not be older than 2 years, the company itself can be older and established, but the product/solution itself shouldn’t be older...

We highly recommend checking the recent WSA winning projects.
WSA Evaluation criteria

5 technical criteria:

CONTENT
Quality and comprehensiveness

FUNCTIONALITY
ease of use, user experience, appropriate interactivity

DESIGN
navigation / orientation and visual appeal

TECHNOLOGY
state of the art in technology and quality of technical realisation

INNOVATION
Originality and newness to targeted users, Business model society and market

2 strategic criteria:

IN PACT
Local Impact, Impact on society

GLOBAL / UN VALUE / DIGITAL DIVIDE
What are the benefits of taking part?

FOR PRODUCERS

- Get recognized as best content and represent your country in a global network.
- Join a global network and exchange knowledge, promote your initiatives and get new collaborations.
- WSA Nominee seal.

FOR WINNERS

- Winners products will be presented as best content from all UN member states in the WSA Catalogue, which will be distributed to the global partner network, and on the website.
- Winners products will be highlighted as best content in the global communication.
- Connection with global experts, Jury members and developers from all corners of the globe.
- WSA network for new cooperation’s and business contacts.
- Invitation to the WSA Global Congress.

Ludmilla Rossi from Beaba:

“Being on WSA 2018 gave me a huge amplitude of what’s the world now—and also that people, no matter they conditions, are fighting for solutions. It was inspiring to know people and projects that would never pop up under my eyes and also meet in person the creators of projects that I’ve been admiring for years!”
TAKE PART!

www.worldsummitawards.org