

## **Slovak Design Award Competition Regulations**

In accordance with the instrument establishing the Slovak Design Center No. MK-3058/2014-110/20851 of 8 December 2014 and the Amendment No. 1 MK-2989/2018-110/4962 of 26 March 2018 thereto, the Slovak Design Center, in agreement with the Ministry of Culture of the Slovak Republic, issues the Regulations of the Slovak Design Award competition.

### **Article 1 Introductory Provisions**

1. The Slovak Design Award competition (hereinafter referred to as the “Competition”) is announced by the Ministry of Culture of the Slovak Republic and the Slovak Design Centre, state subsidised organisation.
2. The Slovak Design Center (hereinafter referred to as the “Organiser”) provides the expertise and organises the Competition via the Competition’s organising team appointed by the Director of the Organiser.
3. The Competition is the most prestigious form of acknowledgement in Slovak design.
4. The Competition takes place every year – odd-year editions are focused on product design and even-year editions are focused on communication design.

### **Article 2 Objective of the Competition**

The objective of the Competition is to:

- a) Support the professional work of authors of Slovak design and entities that collaborate with designers;
- b) Support Slovak designers, entities collaborating with designers, and other professionals in the field of design establishing themselves on the international market, in particular within the European Union;
- c) Present contemporary works of designers to the general public to the greatest extent possible;
- d) Motivate Slovak entities to form continuous collaborations with professional designers;
- e) Support design that reflects the ideas of sustainability and responsibility on part of the designers and their clients;

- f) Support the development of design theory and professional journalism focused on design;
- g) Map, document, and present the development of Slovak design.

### **Article 3**

#### **Applying for the Competition**

1. The following persons or entities may apply for the Competition:
  - a. **Professional** designers, design studios, and other persons/entities who/which are creatively active in the field of design; foreign designers and entities, but only if the submitted work was made in collaboration with an entity from Slovakia;
  - b. **Clients** whose submitted works were made in collaboration with designers; foreign clients only if the design was made in collaboration with Slovak designers;
  - c. The Student Design category is open to **university students** of design at Slovak universities where design is taught, regardless of the students' nationality (whether regular studies or internships) as well as Slovak nationality students of design at foreign universities (whether regular studies or internships).
2. The term "professional designer" shall mean a person with a completed bachelor's degree in the field of design, with at least 1 year of relevant work experience, or a person without formal education in design but with at least two years of demonstrable work experience as a design creator.
3. Applications for the Competition are submitted via an online form available at the website of the Organiser.
4. Payment of the competition fee as specified in the Terms and Conditions of the Competition, which are published on the Organiser's website, is a prerequisite for entering the Competition.

### **Article 4**

#### **Organising Team and Jury**

1. The Competition will be judged by an international expert jury (hereinafter referred to as the "Jury") consisting of at least 5 members – designers and professionals from related fields, with at least one international member or a member that has been operating abroad for a long time.
2. The Jury of the current edition of the Competition is appointed by the Minister of Culture of the Slovak Republic, based on the proposal of the Director of the Organiser.

3. If required, the Organiser reserves the right to invite additional professionals for the Jury meetings; the additional experts' votes will be of advisory nature.
4. The Director of the Organiser may invite a design professional to be the curator of the Competition. The curator shall form part of the organising team and shall be a member of the Competition Jury.
5. The organising team may include other members (such as internal employees of the Organiser or external collaborators of the Organiser), if so required for the particular edition of the Competition.

## **Article 5**

### **Competition Categories**

1. The applicants shall submit their works into the particular categories, which are divided according to the current state of the field, reflect contemporary trends, needs, and the situation in the area of communication/product design in Slovakia, and are compiled by the organising team with the curator in the lead. The categories are announced by the Organiser in the Terms and Conditions of the said edition of the Competition.
2. **The odd-year editions focus on works in the field of product design**, in particular:
  - a) Works of serial production made by a professional designer for a particular client and/or were put into practice, regardless of the size and method of production;
  - b) Works – solitaires made by a professional designer, which do not have to be made for any particular client;
  - c) Models, prototypes, drafts of products and design concepts made within Slovak universities where design is taught or foreign universities (either during regular studies or an internship), made upon assignment by a teacher – such as semestral assignments, bachelor's/master's theses, or dissertations (this shall apply for the Student Design category);
  - d) Innovative, experimental designer concepts, models, prototypes, and research projects that have been made on the own initiative of professional designers or students (without being ordered by a client and without a teacher's assignment and supervision), focused on discovering new tendencies in the field of design, and/or projects that have not been carried out or published yet, with the potential of broader crossovers.
3. **The even-year editions focus on works in the field of communication design**, in particular:
  - a) Projects and works intended for communicating information, the design of which was made by professional designers for a particular client, and/or were put into practice;

- b) Student projects made within Slovak universities where design is taught or foreign universities (either during regular studies or an internship) – such as semestral assignments, bachelor's/master's theses, or dissertations (this shall apply for the Student Design category);
  - c) Innovative, experimental designer concepts, models, prototypes, and research projects that have been made on the own initiative of professional designers or students (without being ordered by a client and without a teacher's assignment and supervision), focused on discovering new tendencies in the field of design, and/or projects that have not been carried out or published yet, with the potential of broader crossovers.
4. The individual categories are specified in the Terms and Conditions of the current edition of the Competition, available at the Organiser's website, [www.scd.sk](http://www.scd.sk).
  5. The applicants may submit multiple works, however, each work shall only be submitted under one category. A potential limitation of the number of works submitted is specified in the Terms and Conditions. Specifications of the recommended areas are part of the Terms and Conditions.
  6. If a particular work does not fall within the criteria of the category it was submitted under, the Organiser shall be entitled to move it into a different category. The Organiser may also split a work into multiple categories if the individual parts of the work meet the criteria for more categories. These changes can only occur with the applicant's consent – the applicant will be informed of splitting/moving the work to a different category by the Organiser in advance. If the applicant does not agree with the suggested changes, meaning the work would be categorised incorrectly, such work/application will not progress further in the Competition.

## **Article 6**

### **Nominations and Awards**

From all the competing submissions, the Jury shall nominate a maximum of 5 works in each category (see Terms and Conditions of the current edition of the Competition).

1. From the nominated works, the Jury shall **choose a maximum of one main award** (in the individual categories of product design for an even-year edition, in the individual categories of communication design for an odd-year edition).
2. **Awards for personages of design** are also given out as part of the Competition:
  - a) **The Established Designer Award** – is awarded to individuals or teams for significant activities in the designer practice during the last two years, on the basis of the works submitted under individual categories, taking into account the broader context of their creations. It is awarded by the Jury in collaboration with the curator.

- b) **The Emerging Talent Award** – is awarded to individuals or collectives for significant activities in the designer practice at the beginning of their career, for originality and a multitude of quality outputs made in the last two years, on the basis of the works submitted under individual categories, taking into account the broader context of their creations. It is awarded by the Jury in collaboration with the curator.
  - c) **The Award for Long-term Cultural Contribution in Design** – is awarded on the basis of the organising team’s proposition and the Jury’s choice of an individual/a team, awarded for the cultural and intellectual contribution in the following areas: an exceptional creation or lifetime achievement, creative and innovative designer work, theoretical-critical publications and historiography, organising work and support of educational project, and the like. It is awarded in collaboration with the Ministry of Culture of the Slovak Republic.
  - d) **The Award for Long-term Economic Contribution in Design** – is awarded on the basis of the organising team’s proposition and the Jury’s choice. The award is meant for individuals and companies either creating or making use of design on a long-term basis and in above-standard quantity and quality, with special attention to its economic contribution: the systematic application of design in the award winner’s company strategy, exceptional design solutions that contributed to improving the award winner’s economic outturn and competitiveness, etc. It is awarded in collaboration with the Ministry of Economy of the Slovak Republic.
3. The organising team shall prepare the propositions of the long-term contribution awards for personages under paragraph 2 (c) and (d) prior to the Jury meeting, and presents them to the Jury for their consideration during the meeting. The Jury then decides whether the long-term contribution awards will or will not be awarded and announce this decision to the corresponding Ministry via the Organiser. Regarding the Award for Long-term Cultural Contribution, the Ministry of Culture of the Slovak Republic will be informed. Regarding the Award for Long-term Economic Contribution, the Ministry of Economy of the Slovak Republic will be informed.
  4. Upon agreement with the organising team, the Jury may also award special mentions.
  5. The announcers of the Competition reserve the right to not give out every award, either on the basis of the Jury’s recommendation or one of the corresponding Ministries’ decision.
  6. The award winners shall receive diplomas granting them the right to associate the awarded product or project with the title Slovak Design Award and the title of the award. The Organiser may provide the winning works with further financial or non-financial prizes. These prizes are not covered by the funds from the state budget, but from other sources exclusively, and will be published at the Organiser’s website prior to the announcement of the results. The nominees will be entitled to associate the

nominated product or project with the title Slovak Design Award and the title of the nomination.

### **Article 7** **Assessment Criteria**

The basic evaluation criteria throughout all of the competition categories shall be:

- a) authenticity, originality, and a high degree of innovation;
- b) technical and technological sophistication;
- c) a harmony of the aesthetic, functional, material, and ergonomic realisation;
- d) ethical, social, and environmental aspects;
- e) communicational, protective, and financial and cost aspects;
- f) comprehensibility and recognisability;
- g) professional quality of workmanship.

### **Article 8** **Final Provisions**

1. Further conditions, in particular the limitation of the time of creation of the competitive works, deadlines for delivering the competitive works and presenting the Competition's results, shall be determined and published by the Organiser in the Terms and Conditions of the respective edition.
2. The Slovak Design Award Regulations No. MK-3170/2017-110/7323 of 15 May 2017 shall be repealed.
3. Any changes to the Slovak Design Award Regulations shall be made in the form of written numbered amendments indicating the effective date. The amendments shall be issued by the Slovak Design Center upon agreement with the Ministry of Culture of the Slovak Republic.
4. These Regulations shall enter into force on 15 March 2022.

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Maroš Schmidt  
Director of Slovak Design Center

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Natália Milanová  
Minister of Culture of the Slovak Republic