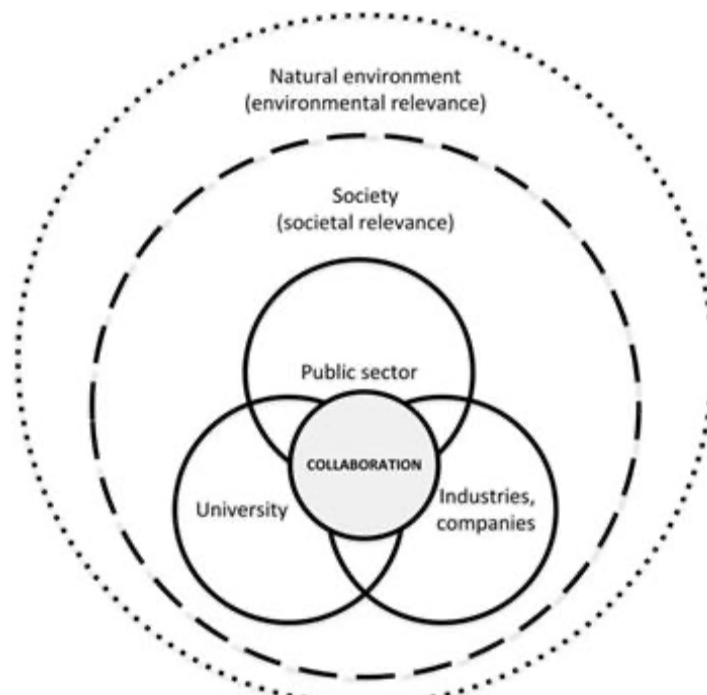


CONGREGA ENTREPRENEURSHIP AWARD (CEA)
“5X ASSET MANAGEMENT INNOVATION”

The ‘5X’ refers to CONGREGA’s collaborative approach based on the five dimensions of the Quintuple Innovation Helix: University (Academia), Industry (Business), Government (Public authorities), Societal Impact (Civil Society), and Environmental Relevance (Natural environment).



The **5X ASSET MANAGEMENT INNOVATION** entrepreneurship project was pilot tested in the 2024 edition of CONGREGA. It aims to promote sustainable and inclusive innovation and nurture a robust ecosystem where effective public policies, sustainable business practices, and entrepreneurial education come together to boost economic growth and competitiveness.

The **5X ASSET MANAGEMENT INNOVATION** offers a unique platform for entrepreneurs to develop and present innovative solutions that address critical challenges in engineering asset management (asset management applied to engineered assets and asset systems). The focus is on the value derived from engineering assets, taking into consideration capital inflows and outflows, including social and environmental outcomes.

REGULATION OF THE CONGREGA ENTREPRENEURSHIP AWARD (CEA)

Art. 1 - Introduction

This regulation establishes the guidelines for the organization of the CONGREGA Entrepreneurship Award (CEA), an initiative aimed at promoting innovation, entrepreneurship, and collaboration within the community of engineering asset managers within the scope of the 2026 joint edition of CONGREGA and WCEAM. This competition is an integral part of the CONGREGA program, with the goal of fostering collaboration among researchers and industry leaders towards transforming ideas into concrete ventures that generate value from engineering assets.

Art. 2 - Objectives

The Competition aims to achieve the following objectives:

Foster technological innovation in engineering assets, asset systems, and networks, focusing on generating value and business ideas impacting the thematic areas covered in the congress, and encouraging the practical application of the research presented in the congress.

Additionally, it aims to encourage the creation of start-ups, patents, and other forms of knowledge transfer generated from the work presented at CONGREGA.

Art. 3 - Applications

The competition is primarily directed to doctoral students, researchers, professors, or professionals who are enrolled in a PhD program or have obtained their PhD degree within the last 5 years, but is generally open to all CONGREGA participants.

Applications can be submitted individually or as a group, in which case at least one group member must meet the requirements. Each group may submit a maximum of two applications. Each individual may submit or be part of a maximum of two applications. Submissions for the competition are accepted until the deadline established by CONGREGA for presentations and special sessions.

Art. 4 - Phases

CEA consists of the following phases:

Idea submission: Participants will present their business proposals, describing innovation, feasibility, and potential impact.

Evaluation: Assessment of submitted ideas by a panel of experts, considering criteria such as originality, relevance, and sustainability.

Discussion: Selected candidates will have the opportunity to delve deeper into and discuss their ideas with an evaluation panel, promoting constructive debate on how best to develop and engage the market.

Mentoring: Selected projects will benefit from mentoring sessions and/or workshops to help participants develop their ideas and entrepreneurial skills.

Art. 5 - Minimum Project Requirements

Submitted projects must meet minimum criteria for technical viability and socioeconomic value, demonstrating clarity in conception and implementation strategy.

Art. 6 - Formalization and Admission to the Competition

To formalize participation, interested parties must submit a manuscript with an executive summary of the project, including information about the team involved, the issue addressed, and the proposed solution, as well as a justification for the project's relevance within the context of CONGREGA. The submission procedure is the same as for other types of contributions (see instructions for submission of manuscripts at the congress website <https://www.CONGREGA.eu/CONGREGA-2026/>). Every application must clearly designate a reference person, with whom the competition coordination team will maintain official communication. Admitted projects will receive a registration number for identification throughout the competition.

Art. 7 - Project Presentations

Selected projects will be publicly presented during a dedicated session at CONGREGA, allowing participants to share their innovative concepts and execution strategies with the congress community. Each presentation shall last a maximum of 12 minutes, followed by up to 3 minutes for discussion with the audience.

Art. 8 - Jury

The jury will consist of recognized experts in the fields of entrepreneurship, innovation, and the thematic areas covered in CONGREGA, ensuring a thorough and impartial evaluation of participating projects.

Art. 9 - Awards

Awards will be granted to acknowledge the most promising projects, considering criteria such as originality, technical and economic feasibility, potential impact, and presentation quality. The awards will be announced during the CONGREGA 26 edition in Braga.

Art. 10 - Networking and Investment Opportunities

In addition to awards, opportunities for networking with investors, incubators, or start-up accelerators will be created for finalists to help turn winning ideas into reality.

Art. 11 - Confidentiality

Measures to protect the privacy and confidentiality of submitted projects will be implemented in accordance with the provisions of the General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR).

Art. 12 - Publication of Works

Without prejudice to Art. 11, CONGREGA reserves the right to publish award-winning works in editorial collections, journals, newsletters, or similar dissemination media and promote them for promotional purposes, with prior consent from the authors, without the right to claim any compensation for copyright.

Art. 13 - Promoting Entity

CEA is promoted by CONGREGA with the aim of driving the transformation of knowledge into economic and social value.