

Press Release | Page 1 | 17/10/2016

**Badenova innovation fund for climate and water protection sponsors the “Young Talents Day” of the International Convention of Environmental Laureates**

**Applications for the Young Talents Day on 11 March 2017 for young people are now open**

***From now on, young people can apply to participate in the Young Talents Day 2017 which is sponsored by the badenova innovation fund for climate and water protection and takes place within the course of the International Convention of Environmental Laureates in Freiburg. The application is available via school, the University, the UWC Freiburg or with the organizer directly. The Online Contest gives environmental projects the opportunity to be presented to the international laureates. The badenova innovation fund for climate and water protection sponsors as well as enables an improved concept of the event.***

For five years the European Environment Foundation, in cooperation with the FWTM (Freiburg Wirtschaft Touristik und Messe GmbH & Co. KG), has organized the International Convention of Environmental Laureates in Freiburg. On the corresponding Young Talents Day at the UWC Robert Bosch College Freiburg, young people have the unique opportunity to meet renowned climate, nature and environmental protection experts from more than 40 different countries. Imagine discussing the protection of species with a rhino conservationist from South Africa, telling a solar stove manufacturer from India about the solar study group at your own school, or listening to the experiences of an anti-nuclear activist from Russia: These are unique experiences you will never forget.

Press Release | Page 2 | 17/10/2016

### **Optimized concept funded by badenova innovation fund for climate and water protection**

With an optimized concept to increase the quality of the Young Talents Day, a sponsorship from the badenova innovation fund for climate and water protection was gained in the course of the fifth anniversary of the Convention in 2016. The funding goes into the planning of the Young Talents Day 2017, for which the concept was revised again and improved on the basis of the experience of 2016. For the upcoming Young Talents Day on 11 March 2017, all discussion tables, the so-called round tables, are divided into different topics. The young people will receive an organized preparation for the introduction into the respective topic. In addition to the round tables there will be interactive group work with the international laureates. At "Market & Music" local environmental initiatives from the region present themselves accompanied by the UWC Freiburg school band.

### **First-time direct application for the Young Talents Day**

Another significant addition is that young people can apply for participation for the first time directly to the organizer. In addition to the participation via the partner institutions of the Young Talents Day – Regional Council of Freiburg, Freiburg University, UWC Robert Bosch College Freiburg – there are now 20 spots available for direct application. "We are implementing the idea of an improved quality of the event," says FWTM CEO Bernd Dallmann. "The best candidates will be chosen in an internal selection process. This brings additional interested, committed and enthusiastic young people to the Young Talents Day, which further increases the number of participants."

**This is how young people from the region can participate in the Young Talents Day on 11 March 2017:**

Press Release | Page 3 | 17/10/2016

- Participation via school: All schools of the Freiburg Regional Council are invited by the Regional Council. Students can approach their teachers directly with regard to the participation.
- Participation via the University of Freiburg: At the University of Freiburg, students will be invited to the Young Talents Day by notices on campus and other channels of communication.
- Participation of students of the UWC Robert Bosch College Freiburg via the UWC.
- New: Direct application. For the first time young people between the ages of 16 and 28 can apply directly to the organizer. This gives enthusiastic young people – that are not students at one of the schools of Freiburg's Regional Council, the UWC Freiburg or the University of Freiburg – an opportunity to participate.

*Information and Application:*

[www.european-environment-foundation.eu](http://www.european-environment-foundation.eu)

### **Online Contest – Opportunity for young environmental groups:**

The online platform EnviroNetwork.eu, which was also initiated by the FWTM and the European Environment Foundation, offers a contest for youth projects. The main prize is the free participation in the entire four-day International Convention of Environmental Laureates from 9 to 12 March 2017, the participation in environmental classes of the UWC Robert Bosch College Freiburg and, as a highlight, the presentation of their own project in the large plenum on the Young Talents Day on 11 March 2017.

sponsored by



Deutsche  
Bundesstiftung Umwelt

[www.dbu.de](http://www.dbu.de)

Press Release | Page 4 | 17/10/2016

*Information and Application: [www.vironnetwork.eu](http://www.vironnetwork.eu)*

### **At a glance:**

#### **International Convention of Environmental Laureates and Young Talents Day**

Since 2012, the International Convention of Environmental Laureates has been held in Freiburg under the patronage of Professor Klaus Töpfer. More than 100 environmental laureates from more than 40 nations participate each year. In addition to internal events and the Young Talents Day, there are also several public programme parts. The Young Talents Day is organized in cooperation with the University of Freiburg, the Regional Council Freiburg and the UWC Robert Bosch College Freiburg. The young participants receive a qualified preparation. On Young Talents Day, they actively apply the acquired knowledge in discussions with the laureates, learn how to integrate global climate and environmental challenges into everyday context and are motivated by their role models for their own environmental commitment.

#### **EnviroNetwork.eu**

The project is sponsored until the end of 2017 by the Deutsche Bundessiftung Umwelt DBU (German Federal Environmental Foundation) and provides digital networking to environmental laureates, companies, NGOs, environmental activists, students and to the media and press. Those interested can get information on the website or create profiles and projects themselves.

*[www.vironnetwork.eu](http://www.vironnetwork.eu)*

Press Release | Page 5 | 17/10/2016

**European Environment Foundation:**

Founded in 2011, the European Environment Foundation aims to promote dialogue between all disciplines of environmental policy at a global level. The focus is on laureates of prestigious international environmental prizes, the networking and support of which the foundation promotes with various projects. The main projects are the International Convention of Environmental Laureates, held annually in spring, and the new online platform “EnviroNetwork.eu”.

The foundation's Board of Trustees consists of 17 renowned personalities from the field of environmental and climate protection: Manuel Collares-Pereira, Amalio de Marichalar, Monika Griefahn, Rainer Griesshammer, Peter W. Heller, Sigrid Janssen, Gerhard Knies, Jeremy Leggett, Antonio Luque, Giovanna Melandri, Marcello Palazzi, Dieter Salomon, Virginia Sonntag-O'Brien, Simon Trace, Maritta R. von Bieberstein Koch-Weser, Paul Walker and Ernst Ulrich von Weizsäcker. Prof. Dr. Eicke R. Weber, director of the Fraunhofer Institute for Solar Energy Systems, is the chairman of the Board of Trustees. Founders and directors of the foundation are Dr. Bernd Dallmann and Dipl.-Ing. Rolf Hiller.

*[www.european-environment-foundation.eu](http://www.european-environment-foundation.eu)*