Terms and Conditions
for the competition "Our Sustainable Future" by the Goethe-Institut
Washington September 20, 2020 – Summer 2021

1. Competition

1.1 The Goethe-Institut Washington will carry out the competition on its respective websites as well as on the Step Into German website.

1.2 Participation in the competition is exclusively online and free of cost for the participant (with the exception of the cost of the internet connection of the participant(s)).

1.3 The duration of the competition is from September 20, 2020, at 12:00am (midnight), until February 19, 2021, at 11:59pm. All times included in this document are based on the local time in Washington, D.C. (EST).

2. Participation

2.1 By participation, the participant expresses consent to these Terms and Conditions.

2.2 Any person between the ages of 14 and 19 can participate. Participants under the age of 18 must ensure that their guardian grants consent for their participation.

2.3 Those who turn in the documents according to the guidelines published by the Goethe-Institut on the Step Into German website as per item 3.1 are participants in the competition.

2.4 Participation and results thereof are independent of purchase of goods or utilization of services.

3. Implementation

3.1 For participation in the competition, it is required that the “Project Description” form regarding the sustainability project as well as a video about this project be sent to the Goethe email address nachhaltigkeit-washington@goethe.de. The Project Description form can be found on the Step Into German website. Additionally, the participant must accept the Terms and Conditions.

3.2 After the Project Description form and Video have been successfully turned in, the Goethe-Institut will select videos to be posted on the Step Into German website. The Goethe-Institut reserves the right to discard illegal, defamatory or otherwise unfit entries. The Goethe-Institut also reserves the right to review all entries before publication online.

3.3 The Project Description form and the video can be turned in until February 19, 2021, at 11:59pm.
3.4 In the time period between February 19, 2020, and April 1, 2020, an expert jury will meet to evaluate completed projects according to the criteria on the Step Into German website. The jury will declare the selected projects to the Goethe-Institut. The winners of the competition are those which are selected by the jury.

3.5 The Goethe-Institut will notify the selected participants in April 2021, and will announce the results on the Step Into German website. Participants who are not selected may not receive a notification.

3.6 The winning teams (maximum of 3 students and 2 teachers) will take part in one of the international expert coaching programs organized and offered by the Goethe-Institut and present at a virtual international sustainability conference.

3.7 Should a selected participant fail to respond within 10 days to the notification sent to the email address listed in the Project Description form, this participant forfeits their right to the stipend and to participation in the sustainability conference.

4. Rights of Use

4.1 The participants grant the Goethe-Institut a non-exclusive right of use over the videos created by them for the purposes of participation in the competition, in which respect this right of use will be free of geographical and temporal limitations and substantially restricted to the competition, and will cover all known and unknown types of use. These types of use include, in particular, the right to make the videos publicly accessible on the Internet, including the right to use it on social media networks (e.g. Facebook). These rights of use will be granted free of charge. The Goethe-Institut is entitled to grant the rights detailed above to third parties.

4.2 The participants affirm that the video they have submitted is free from third party rights, in particular copyrights, other related rights or personal rights, and that they are able to dispose freely of the video. By way of a precaution, they will indemnify the Goethe-Institut from all claims made by third parties that result from the inaccuracy of the assurances given above.

4.3 The Goethe-Institut will be entitled, but not obliged, to use the videos created by the participants. The Goethe-Institut will identify the participants by name in the context of any forms of use.

5. Liability

5.1 The Goethe-Institut will not assume any liability of any kind for the loss or incompleteness of the data transmitted by the participant, unless the loss or incompleteness of the data is a result of intentional or grossly negligent behavior on the part of the Goethe-Institut or its staff. This will also apply to the publication of
information by third parties on account of technical errors in the transmission of data and/or unauthorized access.

5.2 Irrespective of other statutory preconditions for the assertion of claims, the following exclusions from and limitations of liability will apply to the Goethe-Institut’s liability to pay compensation for damages as provided for in section 5 of these conditions of participation.

5.3 The Goethe-Institut will have unrestricted liability, provided the cause of the damage is a result of intention or gross negligence.

5.4 Furthermore, the Goethe-Institut will be liable for any slightly negligent failure to comply with material duties where the failure to comply with these duties endangers the achievement of the purpose of this contract, or for any failure to comply with duties where their fulfillment would actually make the orderly conduct of the competition possible in the first place and where the participants would usually expect them to be performed. In this case, however, the Goethe-Institut will only be liable for foreseeable damages typically associated with contracts of this kind. The Goethe-Institut will not be liable for any slightly negligent failure to comply with duties other than those specified in the preceding sentences.

5.5 The limitations of liability set out above will not apply where injury to life, the body and health is suffered, where any defect becomes apparent following the assumption of guarantees for the characteristics of a product and where defects are fraudulently concealed. Liability under the Product Liability Act will remain unaffected.

5.6 In so far as the Goethe-Institut’s liability is excluded or limited, this will also apply to the personal liability of the Goethe-Institut’s employees, representatives and vicarious agents.

6. Datenschutz

6.1 The participant grants the Goethe-Institut the right to process personal data given for the competition as long as the data is required for the implementation of the competition and/or the realization of the rights of use as outlined in section 4 and for the granting of the stated awards for the competition.

6.2 The participant is free to withdraw themselves from the competition at any time and/or request the personal data about him/her published on Facebook be deleted or be blocked.

7. Exclusions from Competition

7.1 Staff of the Goethe-Institut e.V. and their relatives will be excluded from participation in the competition.

7.2 Persons who (i) make untruthful statements about their personal data, (ii) submit content that is illegal or incompatible with these conditions of participation, (iii) are
otherwise not in accordance with the guidelines listed in these conditions of participation or (iii) manipulate or otherwise misuse the electronic facilities created for the competition will be excluded.

8. Premature Termination of Competition

8.1 The Goethe-Institute wishes to draw attention to the fact that the availability and functioning of the competition cannot be guaranteed. The competition may be terminated or removed due to external circumstances and constraints without this resulting in any claims against the Goethe-Institut being acquired by the participants. These reasons may include organizational or technical problems (for example virus in the computer system, manipulation of or malfunction of the hardware or software), or changes to conditions or decisions made by Facebook or other platforms.

8.2 The Goethe-Institut reserves the right to cancel the competition prematurely without notice or reason at any time.


9.1 Decisions regarding the selection of the winner and results are final.

9.2 Recourse to legal action regarding the execution of the contest and its results is excluded. The realization of the competition and the privity of contract between the involved persons comply exclusively with the law of the Federal Republic of Germany, independently from the geographical location of participants in the contest. Towards consumers, this choice of law only applies insofar, as they are not dispossessed of the protection which is being granted towards them by the mandatory consumer protection rules that are in effect where the consumer has her/his main residence.

9.3 In the event that any of these individual provisions are or become invalid or unenforceable, the validity of the other provisions remains unaffected.

9.4 These terms and conditions are available in German, English, Spanish, and French. In the event discrepancy between these versions, the German version will have priority.