

Key Dates for the Hessen Ideen Competition 2026

- April 2, 2026** **Nomination deadline** for founders by universities. Each university can nominate up to three ideas.
- April 30, 2026** **Submission deadline for documents.** Nominees must upload their documents on the Hessen Ideen website. All submitted ideas officially enter the competition round. Unfortunately, nominated founders who do not submit their documents by April 30, 2026 (by 11:59 PM) cannot participate.
- May / June 2026** **Evaluation process:** Voluntary experts evaluate the idea sketches of the competition participants. Each idea is assessed by at least two experts. The participants receive the feedback anonymously in August. The ten ideas that receive the highest scores will go through to the final.
- May 13, 2026** **Kickoff** for participating founders, information event on the competition process (10.30 am, online).
- Until June 3, 2026** The participants prepare their campaigns for the online voting. During this time, the online profiles are set up. **Latest release of the online profiles: June 08, 2026.**
- July 23 - August 13, 2026** Public **online voting** at www.hessen-ideen.de. The participating ideas will be presented on the website, and the public can vote for their favorite idea. The three ideas with the most votes will advance to the finals.
- August 14, 2026** **Announcement of the finalists** of the Hessen Ideen Competition.
- August 27, 2026** **Pitch training** for finalists (full day in Frankfurt, workshop in presence).
- September 18, 2026** **Jury session** for finalists (in Frankfurt, in person).
- September 24, 2026** **Award ceremony of the Hessen Ideen Competition 2026** at the Museum of Communication in Frankfurt am Main



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