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U.S. Embassy Pristina Ron Brown Apprentice Business Plan Competition

February 21 – March 14, 2013

What?

U.S. Embassy Pristina is seeking entries from university students for the **Ron Brown Apprentice Business Plan Competition**. Through the program, the Embassy invites university students in Kosovo to come up with the next Facebook, Apple iPhone, hybrid car, or other innovation that will make our lives easier and change the way we think about the future. The program aims to promote entrepreneurship, the development of sound business practices, and the promotion of the free market system in Southeast Europe. The winners of the Kosovo competition will compete against other university students from Hungary, Italy, Macedonia, Montenegro, Poland, Serbia, Switzerland and possibly others in a region-wide competition for the best business plan. The competition is envisioned in the format of Donald Trump's The Apprentice -- successful businesspeople in the region will evaluate the projects against one another blindly.

Why Apply?

- The top two submissions from the Ron Brown Apprentice competition in Kosovo will travel to Zadar, Croatia, to attend the Ron Brown Forum: Entrepreneurship and Venture Capital, April 8-9, 2013. In Zadar, the Kosovo students will compete against their counterparts for three prizes.
- Attendance at the Brown Forum will provide an opportunity for the students to network with some of the most influential venture capitalists and entrepreneurs in Europe as well as those visiting from the United States. Previous Ron Brown Apprentice competitors have won seed money for their projects, internships with major companies, and career mentors.
- In Zadar, an iPad will be awarded to the 1st place winner of the best business plan. An iPhone will be awarded to the 2nd place winner, and an iPod will be awarded to the 3rd place winner.

Where and How?

- Submissions must be in English.
- Each submission must include a one-page business abstract AND a full budget for the proposed business venture.
- Each participant must also submit a CV and basic biographical information – name, age, school/university, email, and phone number.
- The name of the country SHOULD NOT be mentioned in the abstract. The business plan should be one that can be applied elsewhere.
- Submissions must be submitted to PApristina@state.gov no later than midnight on March 14, 2013. An Embassy panel will select the winners of the Kosovo competition, who will be notified the week of March 25.
- Students from ages 18-25 are eligible to submit a business plan. Applicants must be either currently enrolled in an undergraduate program or have graduated from an undergraduate program within the last two years. Please provide proof of enrollment or graduation with your submission.
- Business plans must be sent to U.S. Embassy Pristina via e-mail (PApristina@state.gov) with “The Ron Brown Apprentice Program” in the subject field of the e-mail.
- Business plan submissions that do not comply with U.S. Embassy guidelines or contain prohibited, inappropriate, irrelevant, or copied content will be disqualified and not considered for the competition.
- If you have questions about the competition, please address them to PApristina@state.gov, subject: "The Ron Brown Apprentice."