

SESAM INN - SHOWCASE & Lou Oberndorf Innovation Nest Award

Terms and Conditions for Participation

Preamble

The SESAM INN - Innovation Nest is an initiative of the Society for Simulation in Europe (SESAM) designed to foster innovation and creativity within the international healthcare simulation community. As a dynamic incubator, SESAM INN provides a platform for simulationists, educators, researchers, and innovators to develop and showcase groundbreaking projects, prototypes, educational programmes, and proofs of concept in simulation at the educational, diagnostic, and intervention levels.

These Terms and Conditions govern the participation of all applicants, finalists, and beneficiaries in the SESAM INN Showcase and the Lou Oberndorf Innovation Nest Award. By submitting an application, all parties confirm their unconditional acceptance of the terms set forth herein. SESAM reserves the right to update or amend these terms; any such amendments will be communicated in writing to registered participants.

Key Dates

- **7 May - 22 May 2026** - Submission window open: applications and elevator pitch videos
- **29 May 2026** - Official announcement of the ten (10) selected finalists
- **16 June 2026** - SESAM INN Showcase - Pre-congress programme, SESAM Annual Meeting 2026
- **19 June 2026** - Lou Oberndorf Innovation Nest Award Ceremony - SESAM Annual Meeting Closing Session
- **Second week of July 2026** - Disbursement of award funds to the three winning projects
- **SESAM Annual Meeting 2027** - Submission deadline for first progress report (beneficiaries)
- **2028** - Submission deadline for final follow-up report (beneficiaries)

SECTION 1 - SCOPE AND PURPOSE

1.1 Scope

These Terms and Conditions apply to all individuals, teams, institutions, and organisations that submit an application to the SESAM INN Showcase and the Lou Oberndorf Innovation Nest Award during the 2026 SESAM Annual Meeting cycle. Submission of an application constitutes full and unconditional acceptance of all provisions set forth in this document.

1.2 Purpose

The SESAM INN Showcase is a competitive platform designed to identify, celebrate, and accelerate exceptional innovations in the simulation field. The Lou Oberndorf Innovation Nest Award is a financial recognition mechanism intended to support the further development, implementation, and dissemination of outstanding innovations in clinical simulation and health education.

1.3 Governing Body

SESAM INN is governed and administered by the Society for Simulation in Europe Executive Board. All decisions related to selection, awards, and procedural matters are subject to the authority of SESAM and its designated committees and juries.

SECTION 2 - ELIGIBILITY CRITERIA

2.1 Who May Apply

The SESAM INN Showcase is open to the following categories of applicants:

- **Individuals or teams** – both formal and informal – working on and developing innovative projects in the healthcare simulation field.
- **Non-commercial institutions** developing solutions relevant to simulation, health education, patient safety, or quality of care.

2.2 Project Stage

Projects at any stage of development may be submitted, including but not limited to:

- Conceptual or early-stage ideas with a clearly defined scope and potential impact.
- Prototypes or proofs of concepts of products/projects undergoing initial testing or implementation.
- Mature solutions with demonstrated outcomes seeking wider dissemination or scaling.

- Applicants must clearly indicate the current development stage of their project in the application form.

2.3 Exclusion Criteria

Applications will not be considered if they meet any of the following conditions:

- Are submitted outside the official submission window (7 - 22 May 2026, 23:59 CET).
- Do not include all required application components as specified in Section 3.
- Present innovations that fall outside the scope of simulation, health education, patient safety, or quality of care.
- Contain information that is factually inaccurate, misleading, or in violation of applicable laws and regulations.
- Applications of ideas that have been already commercialized.

PREVIOUSLY AWARDED PROJECTS: Projects or innovations that have previously received an equivalent financial award from SESAM, or from another organisation for the same project scope and objectives, are not eligible for consideration under the Lou Oberndorf Innovation Nest Award. Partial prior recognition – such as best abstract prizes, poster awards, oral presentation prizes, or travel grants – does not constitute grounds for disqualification, provided the innovation has not already been substantially funded through a prior grant or award specifically intended to support its development. Applicants must disclose any prior awards or funding received in relation to the submitted project.

SECTION 3 - APPLICATION REQUIREMENTS

3.1 Mandatory Components

All applicants must submit the following components within the submission window. Incomplete applications will be automatically disqualified without further review.

1. **Application Form:** available on the SESAM website. Must include all required fields: project title, applicant details, institutional affiliation (if applicable), development stage, and a written project summary of between 250-500 words describing the innovation, its rationale, and its relevance to the simulation field.
2. **Elevator Pitch Video:** maximum duration of five (5) minutes. Videos must be original and engaging, and must clearly describe the innovation, its purpose and context, its current stage of development, and its anticipated impact – whether through verbal description,

demonstration, or both. The video must be uploaded to a file-sharing platform (e.g. WeTransfer) and the direct, publicly accessible download link must be included in the application form. The link must remain active and functional throughout the evaluation period.

3. **Declaration of Originality and Public Disclosure Consent:** A signed statement by the lead applicant confirming that:
- a. the submitted innovation is original and does not infringe any third-party intellectual property rights;
 - b. all submitted materials are truthful, accurate, and complete; and
 - c. the applicant is aware that, by participating in the SESAM INN Showcase, the innovation will be publicly presented and exposed, and acknowledges the inherent risks associated with public disclosure at this stage of development, including the possibility of third-party access to the innovation's concept. SESAM shall not be held liable for any consequences arising from such public exposure.

3.2 Submission Format, Language, and Video Delivery

All written materials must be submitted in English. Applications must be submitted exclusively through the official SESAM submission portal during the open submission window (30 April – 22 May 2026, 23:59 CET). Late submissions will not be accepted under any circumstances.

The elevator pitch video must be shared via a publicly accessible file-sharing platform (e.g. WeTransfer, Google Drive, Dropbox). The direct download or access link must be included in the application form and must remain active and accessible throughout the evaluation period. Applicants are solely responsible for ensuring the link is functional and that the file is downloadable without restricted permissions.

SESAM will verify video accessibility within three (3) business days of submission. Should a technical issue be identified – including but not limited to an inaccessible link, an unsupported file format, or a file that cannot be reproduced – the applicant will be notified via the registered contact email and given three (3) business days to resolve the issue. Failure to rectify the problem within this period will result in disqualification of the application.

SECTION 4 - SELECTION PROCESS

4.1 Selection Committee

Applications will be evaluated by a Selection Committee constituted and appointed by SESAM, comprising the following five (5) members:

- One (1) member of the SESAM Professional Development Committee
- One (1) member of the SESAM Education Committee
- One (1) member of the SESAM Community of Practice - Technology and Innovation
- One (1) member of other SESAM Communities of Practice
- One (1) representative designated by the Lou Oberndorf Innovation Nest Award

Committee members serve in a personal capacity. SESAM ensures that appropriate conflict-of-interest protocols are applied throughout the selection process. Any committee member with a declared conflict of interest in relation to a specific application shall recuse themselves from the evaluation of that application.

4.2 Evaluation Criteria and Scoring

Each valid application will be independently scored by each Selection Committee member on a scale of 1 to 10 across the following five criteria, weighted equally:

- Originality and degree of innovation - extent to which the project represents a novel contribution to the simulation field.
- Relevance to the simulation field and impact on clinical safety - alignment with the goals of SESAM INN and demonstrable potential benefit.
- Clarity and quality of the elevator pitch video - ability to communicate the innovation compellingly and effectively within the time limit.
- Feasibility and scalability - realistic potential for implementation and broader adoption.
- Potential for real-world impact and contribution to quality of care - evidence or convincing argument for meaningful outcomes.

The final score for each application shall be the arithmetic mean of the individual scores awarded by all committee members across all five criteria. In the event of a tied score between two or more applications, the following sequential tie-breaking protocol shall apply:

- Step 1: The criterion of "Originality and degree of innovation" shall be double-weighted and scores recalculated.

- Step 2: If a tie persists, the criterion of “Potential for real-world impact” shall additionally be double-weighted and scores recalculated.
- Step 3: If a tie remains after Steps 1 and 2, the Selection Committee Chair shall cast a final deciding vote. Should the Chair hold a conflict of interest in relation to either tied application, an independent member of the SESAM Executive Board shall be appointed to cast the deciding vote.
- All tie-breaking determinations are final and binding.

4.3 Selection of Finalists

The Selection Committee will identify ten (10) finalist projects from among all valid submissions, based on the highest aggregate scores. Finalists will be officially notified by SESAM and publicly announced on 29 May 2026. All applicants who are not selected as finalists will receive written notification of the outcome.

4.4 Confidentiality of Deliberations

All deliberations of the Selection Committee are strictly confidential. SESAM will not disclose individual scores, committee feedback, or comparative assessments to non-selected applicants, except in aggregated summary form at the discretion of SESAM.

SECTION 5 - SESAM INN SHOWCASE: FORMAT AND OBLIGATIONS

5.1 Date and Venue

The SESAM INN Showcase will take place on Tuesday 16 June 2026 as a half-day pre-congress activity at the venue of the SESAM Annual Meeting 2026. Specific venue details and logistical information will be communicated to finalists following their official selection.

5.2 Registration Requirement

All finalists are required to register formally for the SESAM Annual Meeting 2026. Paid registration is mandatory; only officially registered finalists will be permitted to present. Any finalist who fails to complete registration by the communicated deadline may forfeit their place in the Showcase.

For team applications, a maximum of three (3) representatives may participate during the Showcase process. All representatives must be individually registered for the SESAM Annual

Meeting and the pre-congress activity. Only one presenter may deliver the live pitch, although the other team members may be present during the feedback session.

5.3 Presentation Format

Each finalist project will be presented according to the following format:

- Live pitch presentation of a maximum of five (5) minutes in duration.
- A subsequent session of ten (10) minutes for structured feedback, questions, and discussion with the expert jury panel.

Presentations must be delivered in person by the registered lead presenter. Remote or pre-recorded participation is not permitted for the live pitch, unless exceptional circumstances have been approved in advance and in writing by SESAM.

Standard audiovisual equipment will be provided at the venue, including a screen, a laptop, and a microphone. Any presentation format beyond this standard setup (e.g. physical prototypes, additional devices, or special technical requirements) is the sole responsibility of the presenting team. The SESAM Organising Team will contact finalists in advance of the event to confirm presentation format and any specific technical requirements.

5.4 Expert Jury Panel

The Showcase jury panel will comprise experts across the following areas: innovation and entrepreneurship, healthcare, education, general academia, healthcare industry and technology, and SESAM Community of Practice representation. The jury panel composition will be communicated to finalists prior to the event.

Each jury member will provide structured feedback to each presenting team following their pitch. Following all presentations, the jury will deliberate collectively and select the three (3) beneficiaries of the Lou Oberndorf Innovation Nest Award.

5.5 Finalist Responsibilities

Finalists are responsible for:

- Attending the half day of the SESAM INN Showcase pre-congress programme.
- Delivering their live pitch within the allotted time limit of five (5) minutes.

- Responding professionally and constructively to questions and feedback from the jury panel.
- Providing any supporting materials (slides, demonstrations, prototypes) in the format requested by the SESAM Organising Team, by the deadline communicated.
- Complying with all logistical and technical requirements communicated by the SESAM Organising Team.

SECTION 6 - LOU OBERNDORF INNOVATION NEST AWARD

6.1 Award Overview

The Lou Oberndorf Innovation Nest Award is a recognition and financial grant to honour exceptional innovations in the simulation field.

6.2 Award Structure

Three (3) projects will be selected from among the ten (10) SESAM INN Showcase finalists to receive the Lou Oberndorf Innovation Nest Award. Each winning project will receive a financial grant of EUR 2,800 (two thousand eight hundred euros), intended to support the further development, testing, implementation, or dissemination of the awarded innovation.

6.3 Award Eligibility

Eligibility for the Lou Oberndorf Innovation Nest Award is restricted exclusively to projects that:

- Have been officially selected as SESAM INN Showcase finalists.
- Have been presented in person by the lead applicant or a designated registered team representative during the SESAM INN Showcase on 16 June 2026.
- Comply with all provisions set forth in these Terms and Conditions.

6.4 Selection of Beneficiaries

Beneficiaries are selected by the expert jury panel on the basis of the following criteria:

- Originality and degree of innovation.
- Relevance to simulation and patient safety.
- Feasibility and demonstrated potential for real-world impact.
- Quality of the live presentation and ability to respond effectively to expert questions.
- The decisions of the jury are final, binding, and non-negotiable. No appeals or contestations will be entertained.

6.5 Award Ceremony

The Lou Oberndorf Innovation Nest Award will be publicly presented on 19 June 2026, during the Closing Ceremony of the SESAM Annual Meeting 2026. The ceremony will include the formal presentation of awards by Lou Oberndorf, the screening of photographs and/or short clips from the three winning teams, and on-stage recognition of the winners.

SECTION 7 - FUND DISBURSEMENT AND FINANCIAL OBLIGATIONS

7.1 Disbursement Timeline

Award funds will be disbursed by SESAM during the second week of July 2026, following the conclusion of the SESAM Annual Meeting and the completion of all required administrative procedures by the beneficiary.

7.2 Disbursement Modalities

Funds will be transferred directly to one of the following:

- The institutional bank account of the lead applicant's affiliated organisation, as designated by the beneficiary.
- The personal bank account of the individual lead applicant or team leader, where no institutional affiliation exists or where institutional transfer is not applicable.

Beneficiaries must provide full payment information, and all required supporting documentation to SESAM within ten (10) calendar days of official notification of their award. Failure to provide the required information within this period may result in delayed or withheld disbursement.

7.3 Permitted Use of Funds

Awarded funds must be used exclusively for activities directly related to the development, testing, implementation, or dissemination of the supported innovation. Permitted uses include, but are not limited to:

- Materials, equipment, or software directly required for project development.
- Fees and expenses related to patent registration, intellectual property procedures and project submissions costs.
- Personnel costs (e.g. research assistance, technical support) directly associated with the project.

- Travel and accommodation costs related to project implementation or dissemination activities.
- Publication or dissemination costs, including open-access publication fees.
- Conference registration fees for the purpose of presenting the innovation.

7.4 Prohibited Use of Funds

Funds may not be used for:

- Personal expenses unrelated to the awarded project.
- Commercial activities not directly linked to the development or dissemination of the innovation.
- Any purpose inconsistent with the values and mission of SESAM.

7.5 Tax and Financial Reporting

SESAM bears no responsibility for any taxation, reporting obligations, or financial implications arising from the receipt of award funds. Beneficiaries are solely responsible for ensuring compliance with all applicable tax laws and financial regulations in their respective jurisdictions.

SECTION 8 - ACCOUNTABILITY AND REPORTING OBLIGATIONS

8.1 Follow-Up Reporting

Award recipients are required to submit the following reports to SESAM as a condition of the award:

- **Progress Report:** To be submitted by the time of the SESAM Annual Meeting 2027. This report must outline progress achieved in the development or implementation of the innovation, and identify any challenges encountered.
- **Final Follow-Up Report:** To be submitted by 2028. This report must reflect outcomes achieved, remaining challenges, and efforts undertaken for the dissemination or broader adoption of the innovation.

8.2 Format and Submission

SESAM will provide a standardised reporting template to beneficiaries following the award ceremony. Reports must be submitted electronically through the designated SESAM channel and will be reviewed by the SESAM Executive Board or a designated committee.

8.3 Right to Request Documentation

SESAM reserves the right to request at any time evidence of fund usage, including but not limited to receipts, invoices, contracts, or other relevant financial documentation. Such requests must be fulfilled within thirty (30) calendar days of receipt.

8.4 Consequences of Non-Compliance

Failure to comply with reporting obligations or to use funds for their stated purpose may result in:

- A formal request for clarification or remediation.
- A formal request for partial or full reimbursement of the award funds.
- Exclusion from eligibility for future SESAM awards, grants, or funding opportunities.

SECTION 9 - PROJECT CANCELLATION OR SUBSTANTIAL MODIFICATION

9.1 Notification Obligation

In the event that an awarded project is cancelled, substantially altered in scope or objectives, or otherwise ceases to align with the innovation presented at the SESAM INN Showcase, the beneficiary must notify SESAM in writing within thirty (30) calendar days of such a decision.

9.2 SESAM Rights

In cases of cancellation or substantial modification, SESAM reserves the right to:

- Request a detailed written explanation of the circumstances leading to the change.
- Request partial or full reimbursement of the disbursed funds, at its sole discretion.
- Consider the matter in the context of the beneficiary's eligibility for future SESAM support and funding.

SECTION 10 - INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY

10.1 Ownership

Participation in the SESAM INN Showcase and receipt of the Lou Oberndorf Innovation Nest Award does not affect the intellectual property rights of applicants or beneficiaries. All intellectual property related to submitted innovations remains the exclusive property of the applicant(s) or their affiliated institution(s), as applicable.

10.2 Applicant Warranties

By submitting an application, the applicant warrants that:

- The submitted innovation is original and does not infringe the intellectual property rights of any third party.
- The applicant has the full authority and right to submit and present the innovation.
- All claims made in the application and during the Showcase are accurate, truthful, and not misleading.

10.3 SESAM Use Rights

SESAM may use, reproduce, and disseminate information about submitted projects and awarded innovations for non-commercial promotional, educational, and reporting purposes, including through SESAM communication channels, publications, website, and events, following approval from the participating teams and in accordance with applicable data protection and privacy protocols. This does not constitute a transfer of any intellectual property rights.

SECTION 11 - RECOGNITION AND VISIBILITY

11.1 Acknowledgement Obligation

All award recipients are required to formally acknowledge SESAM and the Lou Oberndorf Innovation Nest Award in all presentations, publications, conference abstracts, reports, promotional materials, and any other dissemination outputs arising from or related to the supported innovation. The recommended acknowledgement wording is:

“This work was supported by the Lou Oberndorf Innovation Nest Award 2026, granted by the Society for Simulation in Europe (SESAM).”

SECTION 12 - DATA PROTECTION AND PRIVACY

12.1 Data Controller

The Society for Simulation in Europe acts as the data controller for all personal data collected in connection with the SESAM INN Showcase and the Lou Oberndorf Innovation Nest Award. SESAM processes personal data in accordance with the General Data Protection Regulation (EU) 2016/679 (GDPR) and all applicable national data protection legislation.

12.2 Data Collected and Processed

SESAM collects and processes personal data for the purposes of administering applications, communicating with participants, and managing the award process. Data may be shared with Selection Committee and jury members solely for evaluation purposes, subject to appropriate confidentiality obligations.

12.3 Reporting and Donor Sharing

Progress reports and follow-up reports submitted by beneficiaries may be shared with the donor(s) associated with the Lou Oberndorf Innovation Nest Award upon request. Such sharing shall be conducted in full compliance with GDPR and applicable data protection regulations.

12.4 Applicant Rights

Applicants retain the right to access, rectify, restrict, or request the deletion of their personal data, subject to applicable legal obligations. Requests may be addressed to the SESAM Data Protection contact, the details of which are available on the official SESAM website.

SECTION 13 - CONDUCT AND ETHICS

13.1 Professional Conduct

All participants in the SESAM INN Showcase are expected to conduct themselves in a professional, respectful, and collegial manner at all times. SESAM is committed to providing a safe, inclusive, and psychologically safe environment in which all participants feel valued and supported.

13.2 Ethical Standards

All submitted innovations must comply with applicable ethical, regulatory, and legal standards in healthcare and research. Applicants must disclose any ethical approvals, regulatory authorisations, or clinical validations obtained or pending in relation to their project.

13.3 Grounds for Disqualification

SESAM reserves the right to disqualify any application or revoke any award in cases of:

- Fraudulent, misleading, or inaccurate information in the application or presentation.
- Misconduct, harassment, or disrespectful behaviour by any applicant, finalist, or beneficiary.
- Violation of any provision set forth in these Terms and Conditions.
- Post-award discovery of information that would have disqualified the application at the time of submission.

SECTION 14 - LIABILITY AND INDEMNIFICATION

14.1 Limitation of SESAM Liability

SESAM shall not be liable for any direct, indirect, incidental, or consequential damages arising from participation in the SESAM INN Showcase, receipt of an award, or the use of awarded funds, to the fullest extent permitted by applicable law.

14.2 Applicant Indemnification

Each applicant agrees to indemnify and hold harmless SESAM, its officers, board members, staff, volunteers, and representatives from and against any claims, liabilities, damages, losses, or expenses arising from the applicant's innovation, application, presentation, or use of awarded funds, including any infringement of third-party intellectual property rights.

SECTION 15 - AMENDMENTS, CANCELLATION, AND FORCE MAJEURE

15.1 Amendments

SESAM reserves the right to amend, update, or supplement these Terms and Conditions at any time. Any amendments will be published on the official SESAM website and communicated to registered applicants via official SESAM contact channels. Continued participation following notification of an amendment shall constitute acceptance of the revised terms.

15.2 Cancellation of Event

In the event that the SESAM INN Showcase or the SESAM Annual Meeting is cancelled, postponed, or fundamentally altered due to circumstances beyond SESAM's reasonable control, SESAM will communicate alternative arrangements to participants as promptly as practicable. SESAM shall not be liable for any costs, losses, or damages incurred by participants as a result of such cancellation or postponement.

15.3 Force Majeure

Neither party shall be held liable for failure to fulfil their obligations under these Terms and Conditions where such failure results from circumstances beyond their reasonable control, including acts of God, government actions, pandemics, or other force majeure events. The affected party shall notify the other as soon as reasonably practicable.

SECTION 16 - GOVERNING LAW AND DISPUTE RESOLUTION

16.1 Governing Law

These Terms and Conditions shall be governed by and construed in accordance with the laws applicable to the Society for Simulation in Europe as a registered international association.

16.2 Dispute Resolution

Any disputes arising from or in connection with these Terms and Conditions shall be submitted in the first instance to good-faith negotiation between the parties. If negotiation fails to resolve the matter within thirty (30) calendar days, disputes shall be referred to binding arbitration in accordance with the rules of a mutually agreed arbitration body.

Section 17 - Acceptance and Declaration

By submitting an application to the SESAM INN Showcase, the applicant(s) confirm that they have read, understood, and agree to be bound by these Terms and Conditions in their entirety, and specifically that they:

- Accept all provisions set forth in this document without reservation.
- Warrant that all information provided in the application is accurate, complete, and not misleading.
- Acknowledge that SESAM's decisions with respect to selection, awarding, and all related procedural matters are final and binding.
- Consent to the collection, use, and processing of their personal data as described in Section 12.
- Accept all financial, reporting, and accountability obligations associated with receipt of the Lou Oberndorf Innovation Nest Award, if selected.
- Acknowledge the public disclosure risks inherent in presenting an innovation at this stage, as described in the Declaration of Originality and Public Disclosure Consent (Section 3.1, Component 3).