

ING awards a second round of grants to start-ups and young researchers

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ING Bank Śląski has announced the winners of the second round of its grant program for young researchers and start-ups. This time, the bank looked for solutions to ensure sustainable supply chains, reduce waste, and help minimize food loss and waste. The best ideas will get a total of 1 million zlotys in funding.

In this round, the jury focused on the most innovative solutions to the following challenge: How can we guarantee sustainable production and consumption?

The main prize, 400,000 zlotys, went to [Ecobean](#), which gives a second life to coffee dregs. The start-up focuses on decarbonization across the entire coffee value chain, from green logistics, zero-emissions bio-refineries, all the way up to useful, ecological resources and products. The runner up was [ZNIKA](#), with its compostable packaging products from sustainable materials, a solution that won its authors a whopping 300,000 zlotys. A grant of 150,000 zlotys was awarded to [Bio2materials](#) for an organic leather manufacturing technology using apple pulp. In addition, the jury decided to grant a special prize of 100,000 zlotys to [MyEgg](#), which developed a plant-based alternative to chicken eggs. This round also included a people's choice category, with a prize of 50,000 zlotys, which went to the creators of [Uzyj.to](#), an online platform where users can exchange second-hand construction and finishing materials.

"Excessive production and consumption represent one of the biggest challenges in the world today. This is why the second round of ING's grant program was devoted to solutions that could ensure sustainable supply chains, reduce waste, and prevent food loss and waste. Start-ups and young researchers understand that ecology is not just an idea, but also a business. The market abounds in more and more innovative, ground-breaking solutions of this kind. We believe we should support and promote them, because they have a real potential for fueling change", said Joanna Erdman, Vice-President of the Management Board at ING Bank Śląski.

The best solutions were chosen from among 155 submissions by a jury composed of the representatives of ING Bank Śląski, the world of business and science, and various NGOs, during an awards ceremony held on 1 December 2022, which was also streamed live on [YouTube](#).

Apart from financial prizes, the winners also get a chance forge contacts with investors and companies from the ING portfolio, as well as take advantage of

individual mentorship opportunities, always adapted to the specific requirements of their project. They can also count on media promotion.

The first round of the program, which took place in the spring, was devoted to solutions focused on energy efficiency, renewable energy, and air pollution measures.

The grant program follows up on the Environmental Declaration announced in mid-2021, in which the bank pledged to donate 5.3 billion zlotys in funding for renewable energy and environmental projects and promised to create a grant program for young researchers and start-ups working in the field of sustainable development, with an annual budget of 2 million zlotys.

For more information about the ING grant program, go to: <https://www.ing.pl/o-banku/esg/program-grantowy-edycja-2>