

NTT DATA eAwards: The Japanese IT Company Rewards a Romanian Start-up

Manuscrito has won the Romanian regional round of the NTT DATA eAwards, receiving a €10,000 prize, a ticket to NTT DATA Talent week and the qualification to the international Global eAwards final

Cluj-Napoca, 16th September 2022

NTT DATA, a global provider of digital business and IT intelligence, has announced the winner of the Romanian regional final of the NTT DATA Foundation's Global eAwards competition. Following the judging process in the Romanian regional finals of the entrepreneurship competition organized by the company, the prize of 10,000 euros is awarded to the Manuscrito start-up. In addition, the winner will have the unique opportunity to present their start-up at NTT DATA Talent Week, as well as a pitch at NTT DOCOMO Ventures. Furthermore, the winner qualifies for the international finals of the [Global eAwards](#) competition in Madrid.

On the occasion of the global finals held in Madrid, the start-up that will represent Romania will have the opportunity to win the grand prize, an additional investment of 60,000 euros, and participation in an exclusive accelerator program from the NTT DATA FOUNDATION. Moreover, the Romanian team will also benefit from the chance to exchange ideas with a specialist from NTT DOCOMO Ventures, one of Japan's largest corporate venture capital companies, also part of the NTT Group. Throughout these meetings, the winning team's product will be discussed with the Japanese team, as to identify the ways in which they can support the development of the start-up.

Manuscrito is an app created by a team of young people in Cluj-Napoca that helps children aged 4 to 8 learn writing, reading, simple math operations, and practicing handwriting. The app provides an interactive and multidisciplinary solution based on artificial intelligence algorithms to understand children's learning needs, including the special needs of children with disabilities. Manuscrito is available on tablets, combining children's desire to spend time in the digital world with the need to learn. Through Manuscrito, children receive real-time feedback for their work, and parents and teachers have access to detailed statistics to track their progress.

Now in its 21st edition, the NTT DATA eAwards competition was organized for the very first time in Romania. In the regional stage, 27 Romanian start-ups have entered, from which 12 have qualified for the final. The jury team consisted of customers of the company, representatives of the academia, the local authorities, and the start-up community, as well as experts from within the company. The finalists showcased their

solutions during the presentation sessions and answered the jury's questions in front of an audience of experts at the NTT DATA Romania headquarters in Cluj-Napoca.

"The presented solutions highlighted the immense potential of technology and innovation to shape a sustainable future. We were delighted to see so many start-ups interested in this project. This is proof of the active commitment to sustainability. eAwards is an excellent opportunity for entrepreneurs focused on sustainable products and services. At the same time, it confirms that our strategy as an innovator in the IT&C industry is based on the experience cultivated and inspired by Japanese cultural values. We have created, together with entrepreneurs, academia, local authorities, and the private sector, a mature ecosystem that supports the culture of innovation in addressing societal challenges, and this action has further strengthened the collaboration between us", states Maria Metz, CEO of NTT DATA Romania.

"We witnessed a great session of presentations given by the start-ups, with a high degree of maturity and diversity, making it difficult to choose the winner. Manuscrito has demonstrated in the most convincing way how digitalization based on a mature technology creates added value that is beneficial not only to the children but also to other actors in the ecosystem and thus to society as a whole", declared Emil Petru, COO of NTT DATA Romania. *"We would like to congratulate the winning team and thank all the other participants. We would also like to show our gratitude to our clients and partners in academia and start-ups, the local authorities, as well as the colleagues who participated in the judging process."*

12 start-ups from Romania participated in the final: EatSmart, DocOS, Stool Technologies, David Technologies, Full Track 4.0, Agramonia, XR Med, Snood, Manuscrito, Nooka Space, AI Minded, and HeyMedica.

About the NTT DATA Foundation

The NTT DATA Foundation encourages contributions to improving the quality of life and environmental responsibility through technology, entrepreneurship, and innovation. With a strong commitment to society, the foundation guides its professionals toward projects with potential in the fields of science, technology, and mathematics. It also promotes and advises innovative entrepreneurial projects and/or strategic, scalable, sustainable, and socially responsible research projects. Thanks to the selfless contribution of its professionals, the NTT DATA Foundation transforms talent, entrepreneurship, and innovation into valuable solutions for society. It is currently present in 15 countries in Europe and Latin America. www.nttdatafoundation.com/es

About NTT DATA

NTT DATA - part of the NTT Group, is an innovative IT services company with a global presence and headquarters located in Tokyo. We support customers in digital business transformation through consulting, industry solutions, business process management, and digital IT service. NTT DATA ensures that they, and society at large, have access to a digital future. We are committed to the long-term success of our customers and combine global coverage with a local presence in over 50 countries around the world.

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