

**Date: 28/12/2023**

### **ANNOUNCEMENT TO ALL STUDENTS**

The Academic Sober Prize, initiated by the Sober Club, is a groundbreaking initiative designed to recognize and celebrate the exceptional efforts of Rwandan Universities and Higher Learning Institutions in promoting a sober lifestyle and community engagement.

Reference is made to the request for participation in the Academic Sober Prize Competition addressed to RP-IPRC Musanze.

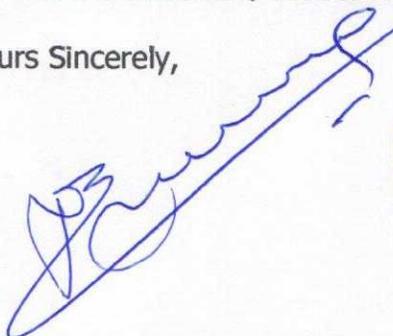
The 5 winners from each participating Institution will be selected to compete at the National level, where they will undergo an interview and the first winner will be awarded a prize and One Million Rwandan Francs (**1,000,000 RWF**) that will be provided by the Sober Club.

The Academic Sober Prize is open to all admitted university students. *Participants must have startup projects promoting sobriety and community development.*

It is with the above background that we invite all RP-IPRC Musanze students to apply for this competition open from **28<sup>th</sup> December 2023 to 5<sup>th</sup> January 2024**. The application file will be submitted to [soberclubrw@gmail.com](mailto:soberclubrw@gmail.com) with a copy of the application to [mukabazigaclemence@gmail.com](mailto:mukabazigaclemence@gmail.com).

For more details on the competition, the concept note is attached.  
For more clarification, contact the Librarian at **0788258204**

Yours Sincerely,



**Dr. Esdras NSHIMYUMUREMYI**  
**Deputy Principal Academics and Training**

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**CONCEPT NOTE:**

**ACADEMIC SOBER PRIZE COMPETITION ORGANIZED BY SOBER CLUB**

**Proposed Summary of Agenda**

- January 2024: Official opening of the Academic Sober Prize
- January–May 2024: University competition level
- June 2024–October 2024: Submission of the list of winners to Sober Club
- September 2024: National Pre-selection level
- November 2024 : Prize Presentation Ceremony in Kigali

**Fore More details : Introduction:**

The Academic Sober Prize, initiated by the Sober Club, is a groundbreaking initiative designed to recognize and celebrate the exceptional efforts of Rwandan University and higher learning institution in promoting a sober lifestyle and community engagement. This prize aims to inspire positive change and resilience among ongoing university students.

**Background:**

It is worth noting that a June 2022 survey by the Rwanda Biomedical Centre revealed an increase in alcohol consumption from 41% in 2013 to 48% in 2022, with 28.5% of adolescents consuming alcohol. Additionally, 4.4% of adolescents in Rwanda engage in illegal drug use, such as cocaine and cannabis, which is punishable by one to two years of imprisonment.

Sober Club is a dedicated social enterprise deeply committed to community well-being, to create a supportive community for individuals committed to a substance-free lifestyle. Understanding the challenges faced by University and higher learning institutions in maintaining sobriety in a world filled with temptations, the Sober Club is dedicated to fostering positive change and resilience.

**Objective of the Academic Sober Prize:**

The primary goal of the Academic Sober Prize is to acknowledge and promote University and higher learning institution-led initiatives that cultivate a culture of sobriety and community development. By recognizing and rewarding outstanding projects, the prize aims to inspire others to proactively adopt healthier and more responsible lifestyles.

### **Eligibility Criteria:**

The Academic Sober Prize is open to all admitted university students. Participants must have startup projects promoting sobriety and community development.

### **Selection Process:**

The selection of Academic Prize recipients will involve a rigorous and transparent process. A panel of university lecturers and deans of students from participating campuses will choose the best startup project aligning with substance abuse and community development. They will evaluate project submissions based on criteria such as innovation, impact, scalability, and sustainability. Five students from each participating campus will be selected to compete at the National level. These students will undergo an interview and number one will be awarded a prize and one million francs (1,000,000 RWF) that will be provided by Sober Club. Each winner at the campus and national levels will be invited and will be given different awards. The number of prizes and the number of awardees may increase as sponsors increase as well. Universities and Higher education institutions are advised to acquire the book “Imbaraga z’Ubushishozi” translated as “The power of Keeping Sober” by Dr. Gamariel Mbonimana supplied by Sober Club to help students get information to use in their projects and in their interviews.

### **Categories:**

The Academic Sober Prize will be presented in various categories, including Community Engagement, Educational Initiatives, Creative Expression, and Technology and Innovation. This ensures recognition of the diverse efforts and talents of university students.

### **Prizes and Recognition:**

Recipients of the Academic Prize will receive financial support, mentorship opportunities, networking events, and resources to enhance the impact of their projects. The prize ceremony will be a grand event attended by key stakeholders, sponsors, and the media, providing a platform to showcase the achievements of the University and higher learning institution and inspire others.

### **Specific Calendar:**

Here is a proposed summarized agenda:

- January 2024: Official opening of the Academic Sober Prize
- January–May 2024: University competition level
- June 2024–October 2024: Submission of the list of winners to Sober Club



**SOBER CLUB**

*A healthier way of living.*

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- September 2024: National Pre-selection level
  - November 2024 : Prize Presentation Ceremony

**Promotion and Awareness:**

A comprehensive promotional campaign will be implemented, leveraging social media, traditional media, and community outreach programs. The campaign aims to create widespread awareness, encourage University and higher learning institution participation, and foster a sense of pride and responsibility in contributing to a sober and healthy society.

**Conclusion:**

The Academic Sober Prize, championed by the Sober Club represents a significant step toward building a culture of sobriety and well-being among Rwandan University and higher learning institutions. By recognizing and celebrating their efforts, the prize aims to inspire a new generation of leaders committed to making a positive impact on their communities and society as a whole. Through collaboration and shared responsibility, the Academic Sober Prize aspires to contribute to a healthier, more conscious, and vibrant future for Rwanda.