



## **DETAILED COMPETITION RULES**

### **Introduction**

The competition IT Student Project of the Year Czech & Slovakia ACM Chapter 2024 (IT SPY 2024) is organized by the Czech and Slovak chapter of the ACM, Czech and Slovak Informatics Faculties, Profinit EU, s.r.o., and other business and media partners. In 2024, the main organizer is the Faculty of Electrical Engineering and Informatics, Technical University of Košice. Both this year and last year, the competition is under the auspices of the Czech Ministry of Education, Youth, and Sports and the Czech Ministry of Industry and Trade, Ministry of Regional Development of the Czech Republic, Economic Chamber of the Czech Republic, National Office for Cyber and Information Security and KInIT, Kempelen Institute of Intelligent Technologies.

To enter the competition, a student must obtain a faculty nomination and then register. The competition involves universities and faculties in the Czech and Slovak Republics that focus on computer science and information technology. Faculty nominations are made by the dean or his/her authorized representative (i.e., ambassador). The competition is only for students who have been nominated, have successfully defended a Master's thesis related to the field of computer science and information technology in the 2023/2024 academic year, and have completed the registration form (see below).

## General guidelines

The Master's thesis must be written in Czech, Slovak, or English. Each faculty can nominate a maximum of 10 Master's theses; the number of theses nominated must not exceed 10% of all Master's level graduates in fields focused on computer science and information technology. The theses nominated that meet the conditions set forth in the competition rules will be reviewed by a jury of experts and subsequently published in the Gallery of Top Projects. Another prerequisite is the research aspect of the thesis. The jury of experts reserves all rights to decide, according to its best judgment, not to include some theses in the Gallery of Top Projects.

Next, each faculty will choose one of the theses it nominated to advance to the semifinal. In the semifinal, a jury of experts will select the finalists from the theses submitted. Then, in the final, the jury will select the winner and determine the order of the best theses.

Only theses that have successfully been defended may be submitted. The student must have done the work independently, and the content of the thesis must not violate any copyright laws.

## Faculty nominations

The Ambassador will fill in the online form at

[https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSdbFLLrw2uul6Qv9PojiEuwFYUICwMIU9o-Msm\\_i\\_KkTpgYmQ/](https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSdbFLLrw2uul6Qv9PojiEuwFYUICwMIU9o-Msm_i_KkTpgYmQ/) viewform page in Czech or Slovak language to nominate his/her faculty as follows:

1. The number of graduates who have successfully obtained a Master's degree in the given academic year.
2. A list of no more than 10 Master's theses in the field of computer science and information technology at the faculty, where the number of theses nominated does not exceed 10% of those who successfully obtained Master's degrees at the given faculty.
3. Identification of one of the best theses out of all those nominated along with the e-mail addresses of the authors (i.e., the semifinalists).

The ambassador has the nominees register for the competition according to the instructions below. We recommend having students register through their Master's thesis advisors, who are listed on the entry forms and will obtain certificates regarding the success of their students after the evaluation for the relevant year.

### **Student entries**

Only authors of Master's theses that have received a faculty nomination may register for the competition. The author must submit the Master's thesis and information leaflet in electronic form to the EasyChair conference management system (see <https://easychair.org/conferences/?conf=itspy2024>) by the deadline set by his/her home faculty, which will be no later than 13 September 2024. The student will receive information from his/her advisor or faculty.

Each duly registered competitor will receive a confirmation e-mail from EasyChair. Early registrations will be included in the competition once the appropriate faculties have nominated the Master's theses. The deadline for competition entries is final. No late entries or theses will be accepted. Incomplete or incorrectly completed entries will be rejected!

### **Student entries will include the following documents in PDF format**

- Master's thesis (text without attachments to electronic media such as programs)
- Information leaflet about the thesis: The leaflet will serve as a brief presentation of the thesis to the judges, the academic community, and even the general public. In addition to the technical/investigation aspects of the thesis (methods used, mathematical models, experiments), it should also thoughtfully introduce the motivations, results, and use of the thesis with possible applications for daily life. Formal requirements for the information leaflet: A4, landscape, in Czech/Slovak/English. The leaflet will include the name of the author, name of the advisor, title of the Master's thesis, and the school/faculty where the thesis was defended, in a suitable manner.

### **Registration on EasyChair includes the following steps**

- Sign up for EasyChair (if the student has not already set up an account with EasyChair)
- Complete the form in "New Submission", where it is necessary to list the student as the first author and the advisor as the second author
- Upload a PDF version of the Master's thesis where it says "Master's thesis" in the form
- Upload a PDF file containing the information leaflet about the thesis as the "information leaflet"

- Semifinalists are also obligated to fill out a short press release about their thesis (Czech/Slovak, max. 150 words)

EasyChair allows users to modify the data in the system and uploaded documents and to download competition entry forms until the deadline. As soon as the student receives information from his/her advisor or ambassador that his/her thesis was nominated, we recommend registering with EasyChair at once and entering at least the basic information such as the title of the thesis in Czech/Slovak and in English, the language of the thesis, the names of the author and advisor, and the text of the thesis in PDF format.

By uploading all the required items to EasyChair during the designated term for competition registration, the competitor agrees to the publication of the Master's thesis text on the IT SPY website. No other confirmation is needed (e.g., a signature).

Thus, the competition entry is complete once (1) the faculty nomination has been submitted, (2) the student nominated has been registered on EasyChair, (3) an electronic version of the Master's thesis has been uploaded to EasyChair, and (4) an information leaflet has been uploaded to EasyChair. Semifinalists will also put a short press release on EasyChair.

### **How the competition works**

The competition will only include those theses that meet all the conditions and are uploaded to the conference management system from June to 13 September 2024.

After this, all the semifinalists' theses will be evaluated (see below) and typically 8 to 12 are selected to be finalists (thus, about half the semifinalists advance to the next level). The finalists will be announced at the end of October 2024. The finalists and their advisors will be informed of the outcome via e-mail.

In the final round, the authors will present their theses to a jury of experts. The winning theses will be announced at the final on 20<sup>th</sup> November 2024 in the presence of the jury of experts, the competition partners, the finalists, the other guests, and the public. The announcement will also include a brief public presentation of all the finalists' theses.

## Evaluation

The evaluation takes into account creativity; innovation; the inclusion of the current state of knowledge, without which it is impossible to assess creativity and innovation including the contribution to the current state of knowledge; and the verification of the solution created. The Master's thesis should not lack an investigative element.

When evaluating the theses in the final, the following criteria are taken into account (the criteria are ranked by importance [starting with the most important] taking into account the overall assessment, whereas the research aspect is a prerequisite for an excellent thesis that will be included in the Gallery of Top Projects):

- Investigation aspect - introduces new methods, models, or algorithms or improves upon those that already exist (adequate for the level of study)
- Solution assessment aspect - verifies the solution created (usually experimental)—an excellent thesis should include proof of the proposed solution adequate for the level of study
- Implementation aspect - implements the existing methods, models, or algorithms or improves upon their implementation
- Research aspect - the student is familiar with the existing solution for the issue—a prerequisite for an excellent thesis

## Additional provisions

The participants, by providing their personal data for the competition, agree that the organizers are authorized to process the personal data the participants have provided for the competition (its organization, presentation, and promotion) and agree to it in writing for a period of no more than 20 years.

The participants, by uploading their theses to EasyChair, confirm that they agree that their Master's theses will be reviewed and evaluated by a jury of experts, organizers, and partners. If the thesis was done for a particular company, it is necessary to obtain written consent from a representative of that company stating that the company agrees to the entry of the thesis in this competition and to the thesis being reviewed and evaluated by third parties (organizers, a jury of experts, partners) and that they agree to the use of the thesis within the context of the competition assessment (the text will be provided to those on the jury of experts) and to its subsequent publication in the Gallery of Top Projects. The participants, by uploading their theses to EasyChair, confirm that they agree to the publication of their Master's theses on the IT SPY website.

Participants have the right at any time to revoke their consent to the processing of their personal data and the right to request access to their personal data, its correction or deletion, the restriction of its processing, or to object to its processing. They have the right to transfer the data to another administrator as well as the right to complain to the Office for Personal Data Protection if they feel that their personal data is being processed in contravention of Regulation (EU) no. 2016/679 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 27 April 2016, the General Data Protection Regulation.

The organizers are not responsible for any incorrect or inaccurate information, or for any technical or human error that occurs while processing the entries received. The organizers reserve the right to make the final decision in all matters related to the organization of the competition, including its cancellation or revocation. The organizers reserve the right to change the rules during the competition, and they also reserve the right to cancel the competition at any time without giving any reason.