

INTERNATIONAL PRIZE "LOMBARDIA È RICERCA" (LOMBARDY IS RESEARCH)

RULES AND REGULATIONS

Article 1

The International Prize "Lombardia è Ricerca"

1. As integral part of the Research Day in memory of prof. Umberto Veronesi, pursuant to article 2 paragraph 6, letter e) of the regional law 29/2016, the Regional Government establishes the "Lombardia è Ricerca" International Prize to publicly recognize the commitment and talent of people who - through their research, discoveries and inventions - made a significant contribution in the scientific advancement and technological knowledge in the field of Life Sciences.
2. The 2024 edition of the Award is dedicated to Life sciences and awards a discovery of high scientific and technological value, associated with relevant results and progresses in medicine, engineering and science, capable of improving the quality of life and everyone well-being. The Prize will go to those scientific achievements that can redefine the boundaries of knowledge and technology in these areas:
 - a. New medicine's horizons, like personalized medicine and the development of innovative care' models, therapy and prevention.
 - b. Scientific researches allowing to overcome traditional boundaries, leading to exceptional progresses in biology, chemistry and physics.
 - c. Technological advances in different engineering and science' disciplines, such as artificial intelligence, robotic, new materials and nanotechnology.
 - d. Environmental and social sustainability, with reference to renewable energies researches, climate change, pollution and global wealth.

The Prize will priorities discoveries, researches and inventions with high translational impact that have the potential to become new products, services or policies to benefits people.

3. The Prize is assigned to active scientists – from any nationality - and can be awarded to a single person or a group of maximum three people, for the same research.
4. The President of Lombardy Region awards the winners during a ceremony organized on Research Day, with a scroll which features the main winning topics.
5. The winner(s) are expected to attend the awards event to receive their Prize and further discuss during the ceremony their dissertation with the public, scientific topics included.
6. The Prize is worth 1 million euros, where the 30% will be assigned to the scientist (or scientists) winner and the remaining 70% will be used to support the research projects related to the winning discovery by public or private organizations in Lombardy which are specialized in research and knowledge dissemination. This part of the prize might be also used to sustain young researchers through PhD scholarships or to develop, in collaboration with Universities of Lombardy, new grants researches strictly connected with the winner's discovery.
7. Lombardy Region, with subsequent resolution, will define criteria and methods for the selection of the research projects and/or for the activation of scholarship or research grants, including any classification regarding government benefits.

Article 2

The Jury of the Prize

1. The international selection Jury is the sole responsible for the winner's choice and is identified as an extraordinary and temporary body.
2. The Jury is composed of 15 members, identified through the Scopus system (<https://www.scopus.com/home.uri>), which uniquely combines a complete and precise database of abstracts and citations with enriched data linked to academics' contents, where users can quickly find relevant and reliable research, identify experts, and access accurate data, metrics and analytical tools to support confident decisions about search strategy.
3. Jurors distribution among the thematic areas related to the Science of Life theme is: Biomedical Research (3 members), Clinical Medicine (2), Biology (1), Chemistry (1), ICT (2), Engineering (2), Physics & Astronomy (2), Earth & Environmental Sciences (2).
4. Within Scopus database, the members with the highest h-index for each of the areas mentioned in point 3 are identified as Jury members. Specifically, at least ten members are among researchers and scientists (Italian or not) affiliated to Italian Research Institutions.
5. Researchers who have already been members of the Jury in 2023 "Lombardy is Research" Award are excluded from the selection.
6. In addition to the 15 members identified by Scopus system, the winners of the 2023 edition will join the Jury with voting rights.
7. Lombardy Region guarantees equal opportunities within the Jury. Therefore, no gender (male/female) can exceed two-thirds of the total of Jurors.
8. Scopus system's members, have to compile the online module in the Open Innovation platform by 15 May 2024, to manifest interest to be a Jury member.
9. The Jury appoints a President among its members and draws up the main topic lists of minutes for each session to be signed by the President which firstly needs subject to validation from of all the Jury members, and finally to be sent to be send to General Direction.
10. On the first call, the General Director convenes the Jury. After the election, the President provides for the next convocations when he deems it necessary.
11. The appointment as a Jury member is precluded to those who have been convicted of crimes against the Public Administration and a conflict of interests situation with the candidates.

Article 3

Presentation of applications

1. Scientists and Researchers from all over the world can propose nominations for the Award (the nominators), provided they have an h-index equal to at least 10. Jurors are not allowed to submit a nomination.
2. The nominators may submit only one single proposal related to a specific scientific discovery, for which they can list up to three names of contributing authors.

3. Nominations can be submitted through the online platform Open Innovation, available at: www.openinnovation.regione.lombardia.it starting from 25 March 2024 to 15 July of 2024.
4. Self-nominations are not allowed.

Article 4

Application Evaluation Criteria

1. The eligible winners of the Prize “Lombardy is Research” are those who have particularly distinguished themselves in scientific research in the field identified for 2024 Prize and have made an innovative contribution to scientific advancement. The Jury shall evaluate research contributions with a quantifiable impact on the specific issues referred to in Article 1, point 2.
2. The Jury shall consider only original discoveries of great innovative value, scientific impact, and - if applicable - economic/social influence. The following criteria are the base for a comparative and objective evaluation of the various discoveries:
 - originality, innovative approach, and scientific impact of the research work
 - position within the international scientific community
 - potential for further development and applications of the research/discoveries made, particularly those on the quality of life
3. The winner is the candidate who obtains the absolute majority of the votes from the Jury members.
4. Elements identified in the point 2 must be inserted in the application.
5. The Winner, once received the communication of the assignment of the Prize, must formalize the acceptance of the recognition and send a specific declaration of no convictions for crimes against the public administration in Italy
6. The assignment of Prize process will be concluded by the 8 November 2024, data of the Research Day.

Article 5

Personal Data Treatment

1. Lombardy Region, as part of the procedure to award the Prize to the scientist (or scientists) to whom the winner discovery is attributed, provides specific information for the processing of personal data referred to in articles 13 and 14 of EU REG 2016/679, referred to in Annex B to the Award announcement.

Article 6

Publication, Information and Contacts

1. Full Copy of the Regulation and its annexs is published in the Official Bulletin of Lombardy Region and on the Open Innovation platform.
2. Proper dissemination and promotion actions of the initiative will also be activated through international channels, as well as through the channels of the Lombard Delegation in Brussels.

3. Any information related to the Regulation can be requested by the email address premiricerca@regione.lombardia.it