EUROTECH FUTURE AWARD 2024

Recognising early-career researchers' excellent contributions to a more sustainable world

TERMS & CONDITIONS

The EuroTech Future Award recognises excellent scientific contributions to the United Nations' Sustainable Development Goals by EuroTech researchers that are at the beginning of their career. The following terms and conditions apply, and every participant accepts those terms and conditions by making a submission.

AWARD

The award is given by the EuroTech Universities Alliance. The alliance's six members are:
- Technical University of Denmark
- École polytechnique fédérale de Lausanne
- Institut Polytechnique de Paris
- Technion – Israel Institute of Technology
- Eindhoven University of Technology
- Technical University of Munich

The award is conceived as a distinction and comes with the following financial reward:
- 1st place: €2,000
- 2nd place: €1,000
- 3rd place: € 500

The award is given to early-career researchers affiliated with a EuroTech University.

ELIGIBILITY

To be eligible, participants need to fulfil the following criteria:
- To work at a EuroTech University in a non-permanent position at the time of the deadline (29 February 2024, 17:00 CET).
- To have received their doctoral degree (date of thesis defence) less than five years before the time of the deadline (29 February 2024, 17:00 CET). Exceptions can be made for proven career breaks (maternity, paternity, long-term illness, national service, clinical training, or due to a natural disaster or seeking asylum).

Documentation to prove the participant's status may be asked at any time during the submission and evaluation phases.

The three winners will be required to present their research in person at an award ceremony in Brussels, most likely to be held on 4 June 2024. Travel expenses will be covered by the EuroTech Universities Alliance. Virtual presentation will only be allowed under special circumstances.

We reserve the right to disregard submissions from participants and to withdraw the award from winners who do not comply with one or more of those requirements, who have misrepresented information required for participating in the contest, or who failed to submit such information.

Former winners of the Award are not eligible.

SCOPE

The award is given to early-career researchers for outstanding achievements in any research topic that contributes to achieving one or more of the 17 United Nations' Sustainable Development Goals (UN SDGs)[1]. Participants need to demonstrate the excellence and impact of their research and relate it to at least one SDG. At the same time, the award recognises the participants' ability to communicate about their research in a way that allows non-experts, particularly policymakers and citizens, to understand their contribution to a more sustainable world.

To qualify for the award, key (intermediate) results must be demonstrated. Submissions referring to research in a conceptual or early implementation phase will be disregarded. The submission can refer to a specific completed or ongoing project, but this is not mandatory.

International collaboration is a focus of the EuroTech Universities Alliance. We therefore particularly welcome submissions that include collaboration with a further EuroTech University. If substantial collaboration can be demonstrated, a bonus will be given in the evaluation phase.

APPLICATION

Submissions must be made before the deadline by using the form at www.future-award.eu ("How to participate"). Only one submission per participant is admissible. In case of several submissions by the same participant only the last submission received will be considered.

Timeline

The timeline for the 2024 award is as follows:

8 January 2024, 09:00 CET: Call for submissions opens
29 February 2024, 17:00 CET: Call for submissions closes
30 April 2024 (tentative):   Results are communicated
4 June 2024 (tentative):   Award ceremony in Brussels

Language

Submissions must be made entirely in English.

Structure

Complete submissions consist of the following blocks:

- Block 1 – COMMUNICATION:

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[1] https://sdgs.un.org/goals

Executive summary of the research in laypersons' terms (max. 200 words)

- Block 2 – IMPACT:
  Description of progress beyond the state-of-the-art; of key (intermediate) results; of the scientific/technological/societal impact and of how the research contributes to the UN SDGs (max. 1,000 words)

- Block 3 – EXCELLENCE:
  Brief demonstration of the research(er)'s excellence containing:
  - A short CV,
  - A list of publications, and
  - Max. 3 of the following (a short description and/or a link where applicable):
    - A letter of recommendation
    - A grant received
    - An award received
    - A conference contribution
    - A successful industry collaboration
    - A patent application
    - Another item/activity that the applicant considers relevant

This information must be provided in a single PDF document, following the above-mentioned order from 1 to 3. Illustrative materials (images, graphs, tables, etc.) may be included. For audio-visual materials, please provide a link. Circumstances having led to a career break as well as any further comments can be included on a separate page at the end of the PDF file.

We furthermore ask for:
- Administrative information about the participant
- Information about collaboration with another EuroTech University (optional).

SELECTION

Evaluation criteria

The criteria against which submissions will be evaluated are the following:

- Block 1: How clear is the communication – max. 5 points, accounting for 1/3 of the total score
- Block 2: How relevant is the research for achieving the UN SDGs – max. 5 points, accounting for 1/3 of the total score
- Block 3: How compelling is the demonstration of excellence – max. 5 points, accounting for 1/3 of the total score

And furthermore:
- Administrative information complete – yes/no
- Relevant collaboration with another EuroTech University – yes/no

Evaluation process

The evaluation and subsequent designation of winners is done in two steps:
1. Shortlist
   A shortlist is established based on the scores of Block 1 (Communication).

2. Jury
   The shortlisted submissions are evaluated by a Jury, which is by default composed of the Vice-Presidents for Research of the six EuroTech Universities and the Head of the EuroTech Universities Alliance Brussels Office. The Jury evaluates the submissions against the three criteria as outlined above and assigns a score per block. The scores are added up to a total score per submission, which are then ranked. Submissions including collaboration with another EuroTech University get a bonus in case of a tie. In case the scores are still tied, the impact score decides. Based on the ranking, a 1st, 2nd, and 3rd place will be attributed, to be revealed at the award ceremony. In case participants placed 1st, 2nd or 3rd need to be removed from the list for whatever reason, the award will go to the next person on the list.

MISCELLANEOUS

Payment arrangements

The award money will be paid into the bank accounts designated by the winners after the award ceremony, provided all the requested documents have been submitted.

Compliance and GDPR

Submissions must comply with the highest ethical standards and must not be unlawful, misleading, discriminatory, or fraudulent. They must not infringe or breach someone else's rights, including their intellectual property and privacy rights. They furthermore must have an exclusive focus on civil applications. The participant consents to the use of the information provided via the submission form on the channels of the EuroTech Universities Alliance and its six member universities for the purpose of communicating about this award. This refers particularly but not exclusively to the executive summary. The participants will always be credited when their submission is being used publicly. EuroTech will publish the names and affiliations of the winners.

Final clause

We reserve the right, in our sole discretion, to cancel, terminate, modify, or suspend the award, should we deem it necessary. All decisions are final. For any questions, please write an e-mail to events@eurotech-universities.eu.