



PCST award for the advancement of science communication as a professional field

Policy and guidelines

1. General consideration and terms

1.1 This document governs the procedure for the assignment of the **PCST award for the advancement of science communication as a professional field** (short: **PCST Award**), its purposes and objectives, the requirements for participants in the competition, the rules and procedure for participation, the list of candidates, the criteria and procedure for evaluating the works in the competition and the procedure for determining the winners. This regulation is approved by the Scientific Committee of the Public Communication of Science and Technology Network.

1.2 Main terms

PCST Network - Public Communication of Science and Technology Network, the Founder

Award - PCST award for the advancement of science communication as a professional field

Nomination – the process of admission to the selections for the prize.

Candidate - an individual who was nominated or self-nominated for the award

Finalist - a nominee who was classified as top5 in the first round of voting

Winner/laureate - a finalist who got most votes in the second round of voting

Prize - prize money received by the winner

Self-withdrawal – withdrawal of the application by the candidate or his representative.

2. General provisions

2.1 A number countries and organisations have science communication related awards for events, science journalism activities, institutional science communication projects, engagement initiatives, and for public activities of professional scientists. The PCST award aims to encourage the development of science communication as a professional field.

2.2 The Award, in particular, will reward

- efforts to support professional development of science communicators and building science communication infrastructure.
- efforts to increase the prestige of the profession of science communicator and raise public awareness of its importance.
- efforts that support the professional culture of science communication

2.3 The Award was established in 2024 by the PCST Network (the Founder) and is awarded biannually.

2.4 The nominations for the Award and the methods for their assignment are determined by this document.



2.5. The amount of the cash prize is established annually and consists of funds provided by the Founder, and any partners and sponsors of the prize.

3. Eligibility

3.1 The award is organised by the Public Communication of Science and Technology Network and is open for all PCST paying members independently of their location, professional background, age, level of experience or any other factors

3.2 This is a personal award. Nominations of single individuals or small groups up to three individuals will be accepted (not institutions).

3.3 Works or projects realised during the last ten years can be nominated

3.4 Conflict of interest. The following individuals cannot be nominated and awarded due to the conflict of interest

- sitting PCST Scientific Committee members
- individuals seeking the award for PCST-related projects: building PCST network, organising PCST conferences, symposia and other events

4. Submission of applications

4.1. Entries can be submitted through online form provided by the Founder at the moment of the award announcement

4.2 Applicants can self-nominate or be nominated by another PCST Network member. One member can make up to three nominations (two nominations plus a self-nomination). In case of nominations a nominator has to indicate if the candidate is aware or not of being nominated

4.3 An award application consists of

- nomination/self-nomination letter (max 1 page). We encourage you to be synthetical and focused, and add external links that can describe the achievements of the candidate. In a likely case that the activity was held in a language different from English we encourage you to add the translations of the principal webpages/material mentioned on separate pages as appendixes. Machine translation is OK.
- a short CV of the candidate (max 2 pages)

4.4 The application is considered registered when the candidate or nominator receives a confirmation letter certifying that the award application has been received. This process may take up to three working days.

4.5 Organising committee conducts the eligibility check and discards applications that are subject to conflict of interest (paragraph 3.3) or do not respect the scope of the award (paragraph 2.2)



5. Judging process

5.1 The award applications are evaluated by the members of the PCST Scientific Committee, PCST life members and, the previous award winners. The award winners are invited to be part of the jury for 5 years, in which they cannot participate again in the award.

5.2 Each evaluator has one voting voice

5.3 Prior to the voting, the Scientific Committee appoints the Executive Secretary of the award. This individual is responsible for the organisation of the voting process, the interaction with the jury, the calculation of the votes. To avoid the conflict of interest, this individual is excluded from the voting

5.4 Selection is run in two rounds. During the first round every evaluator picks five top candidates. First five candidates by number of votes form a short list. During the second round every evaluator placed the shortlisted according to their preferences from the first to the fifth place, and the result is calculated as in [ranked voting](#).

6. Award criteria

The award is intended to celebrate individuals who contributed to the development of science communication as a profession, by establishing professional education programmes, building networks or somehow else.

The award will be judged primarily on the basis of the letter the entrant has submitted, and its impact. Evaluators are advised to judge the quality of work rather than the quality of the application (hence machine translation of non-English materials is accepted). Judges are encouraged not only to read the nomination letter but also to study appendixes and follow the links provided. They candidates will be recognised for:

- * the scale of their work
- * the difference it made, hence what changed after they had started their work
- * the impact their work made on the community of science communicators.
- * the impact their work made on society in general.

7. Award ceremony and publicity

7.1 Shortlisted candidates are announced on internet in advance and are invited to the award ceremony

7.2 The award ceremony takes place at the biannual PCST Conference during a special plenary session and includes

- A presentation talk by a representative of the Founder and, if applicable, of the sponsor
- Announcing the winner and the two runners-up that are awarded the cash prizes
- Acceptance speech by the winner



8. Conflict of interest

If a member of the Evaluation Committee finds himself/herself judging a candidate with whom he/she is affiliated for work, commercial, personal or other reasons, he/she must notify the Chairperson of any potential conflict of interest.

9. Final provisions

9.1 The decision of the judging panel is final and is not subject to objections, appeals, complaints.

9.2 Any candidate can withdraw themselves at any moment of the award, including after the announcement of the shortlist

9.3 The Founder of the Award is not in any way responsible for any losses, including lost profits, directly or indirectly related to participation in the Award, the use of the Award materials, the prizes received or in any other way directly or indirectly connected to the organization of the Award.

9.4 The Organizing Committee will process the personal data of participants in compliance with European regulations (GDPR).