

# **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 Prize awards a fundamental discovery, research, or invention with tangible results in the broad field of " INNOVATIVE MODELS OF CARE, THERAPY AND PREVENTION". Specific eligible topics are: Gene and/or cell therapy; Regenerative medicine and tissue engineering for the generation of organs and tissues; Molecular target therapies; Biological markers for screening and assessment of disease severity; New therapeutic options based on digital technologies; Integration of "omics" technologies with clinical data for understanding disease mechanisms; Innovative solutions to make treatments and therapies accessible and available to all citizens, in urban and non-urban areas; Clinical decision support systems.
3. The Prize can be assigned to a single active scientist or a research group up to three people.
4. Every year, the Regional Government identifies the current theme of the Prize with a formal resolution adopted by the end of January.
5. The Prize is worth 1 million euros and is covered entirely by the Lombardy Regional Government.
6. The President of the Lombardy Region awards the winners during a ceremony organized on Research Day.
7. The winner(s) must be present at the awards event to receive the Prize.
8. The winners will identify the legal entity - among those present in Lombardy - with whom they are willing to start a collaboration and to whom the Region will allocate the share of seventy percent (70%) of the Prize itself.

### **Article 2 (The Jury of the Prize)**

1. The Jury is the sole responsible for the winner's choice and is identified as an extraordinary and temporal body.
2. The winner is the candidate who obtains the absolute majority of the votes from the Jury members.
3. The Jury is composed of 15 members, identified through the Scopus system (<https://www.scopus.com/home.uri>), which uniquely combines a complete and curated database of abstracts and citations with enriched data linked to academic 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.
4. Lombardy Region guarantees equal opportunities within the Jury. Therefore, no gender (male/female) can exceed two-thirds of the total of Jurors.

5. Researchers with the highest h-index in the Scopus database are eligible for Jury members. Lombardy Region contacts the members by following the list for each of the most pertinent areas of the Award's theme, as listed in the official call for the Award. Specifically, ten members are among researchers and scientists (Italian or not) affiliated to Italian Research Institutions and five members among researchers and scientists (Italian or not) affiliated to Research Institutions from all other countries.
6. Jurors distribution among the thematic areas is prescribed in the resolution referred to the previous Article 1, point 4, concerning the theme of the Award. Accordingly, the percentage of Jurors belonging to Italian or foreign institutions within each thematic area is coherent with the share defined in the previous point.
7. If a Researcher does not accept the proposal to be part of the Jury or in the case of resignations, Lombardy Region will contact (based on the previously mentioned Scopus database) the subsequent Researchers with the highest h-index within the Scopus system.
8. The Jury appoints a President among its members and draws up the minutes for each session signed by the President and a Secretary, subject to validation of all the Jury members on the dedicated digital platform.
9. On the first call, the Directorate-General for Education, University, Research, Innovation, and Simplification (DG EURIS) of Lombardy Region convenes the Jury. After the election, the President provides for the next convocations when he deems it necessary. Once the Jury has taken office, the President ascertains the regularity of the constitution and the inexistence of incompatibility causes. Finally, the Jury identifies the selection criteria, the terms, and the procedures to manage and evaluate the applications.
10. The President, upon approval, sends all the Jury's minutes to the DG EURIS.
11. The appointment as a Jury member is precluded to those who have been convicted of crimes against the Public Administration.
12. The appointment as a Jury member is precluded to those who have engaged in illegal conduct harmful to honor, decorum, and image of the Lombardy Region.
13. The Jury members shall not have any conflict of interest with the final candidates during the final selection procedure.
14. A dedicated digital platform will be available to support the procedure for identifying the winner(s).

### **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](http://www.openinnovation.regione.lombardia.it) starting from 21/02/2023 and until 31/05/2023.
4. Self-nominations are not allowed.
5. Nominations cannot be presented by those convicted of crimes against the Public Administration.

#### **Article 4 (Nominees for the Award)**

1. The eligible winners of the Prize are those who have particularly distinguished themselves in scientific research in the fields chosen for the International Prize 2023 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. Specific attention will be on the actual implications regarding health and quality of life.
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 above criteria shall be included in the motivation letter associated with the nomination and assessed by the Jury.