

2024 European Science Journalist of the Year Award — Policy and guidelines

Purpose

To recognize and promote excellence and innovation in science journalism across Europe.

Eligibility

Work published or broadcast between 01 January 2023 and 31 December 2023.

Entries will be accepted on behalf of European science journalism associations as well as individuals working in a European country or whose work has been published in European media.

Individual entry is aimed at journalists working in countries that do not have science journalism associations, or whose local association does not enter into awards.

To nominate, the association should represent a European country in the European Federation for Science Journalism and/or the World Federation of Science Journalists. If not, acceptance will be evaluated case by case.

The criteria to choose an association's nominee is the responsibility of the association itself. Associations are eligible to submit the work of their members regardless of their country of origin. Individuals are eligible to submit their work either on behalf of their country of origin or on behalf of their country of current affiliation. In such cases, the rule "one person - one application" applies.

While submitting as an individual, an applicant from the country without an association, should first become an associate member of EFSJ (5 euro per year rate) and cover a submission fee (10 euro). To do so, contact info@efsj.eu to make a payment before submitting. An applicant from the country that does have an association has to be a member of this local association to apply.

Timetable

1 March: open submissions

1 June: submission deadline

31 July: winner and runners-up selected

20 August: Announce the finalists.

Autumn, at the ceremony: winner and runners-up announced.

Entry requirements

Entries can be submitted by email at awards@efsj.eu. The organizing committee will control if the entry is accompanied by all the necessary documentation and will send

a confirmation email within 24 hours after submission (or require additional documentation). The application counts as submitted only after the confirmation email was sent.

Entrants are allowed to provide three supporting pieces of work either by URL or by file or a mixture of both. It is recommended that entries include an English translation if the original piece is published in another language, and entrants are responsible for providing the translated work. If the work is a TV or radio programme, the translation of its script must be provided. If a piece of work is submitted in a language other than English, it might be machine-translated and read by people who cannot assess the quality of the translation, so the organizers encourage to send a document which has been reviewed by the writer(s) themselves on translation errors. Along with the pieces it is required to send a short CV of an applicant and the nomination letter of the nominating association (cover letter if self-nominating).

Award criteria

The award is intended to celebrate a journalist whose work, published during the period of eligibility in a journalistic outlet, has promoted excellence and creativity in the sciences. The award will be judged primarily based on the work the entrant has submitted and its impact.

They will be recognized for:

- * Informing and entertaining audiences
- * Inspiring new generations of journalists and writers
- * Innovation in their main area of expertise
- * Investigative/exclusive nature of their work, and its societal impact.

The award is open to journalists working in print, online, broadcast or multimedia but not books.

Judging process

A total of six judges and a chairperson will be nominated by the board of the European Federation of Science Journalists. Judges may include the previous year's winner and runners-up. The judging process will be coordinated by the award's chairperson, who will strive to ensure balanced representation in gender, geography and areas of expertise. Judges will each select autonomously their preferred winner and two runners up. The judges will then meet either in person or virtually to present their nominations. In case any entrants get equal scores, the judges shall decide by discussion followed by a vote.

Prizes

The first-place winner will be awarded a prize of 1,000 Euro. Second and third-place winners will be awarded 500 Euros. Travel expenses to the Awards ceremony and one night's accommodation will be covered for the 3 finalists.