



Young Scientists sessions

Formal goals

The Young Scientists Sessions provide a special platform for paper presentations by young scientists with an in-depth discussion of the papers by senior scholars in the field.

The Young Scientists Sessions are organized according to the following two principles:

- Offering more time for each presentation, in particular to increase the amount of feedback a young scientist receives on her or his paper, and to provide more opportunity for other young scientists to participate in scientific discussions.
- Assigning specialist discussants, experts in the specific field, to each paper that is presented.

Criteria to enter the Young Scientists Sessions

The sessions are primarily targeted to Masters and PhD students, and young scholars of comparable age, and meet the following criteria:

- The main author and presenter must be less than 33 years old **on 1 September of the year of the Congress.**
- **The main author and presenter must** not have a senior position (as associate professor or higher).
- In case of multiple- authored papers these two criteria are not applicable for the co-author(s).
- A (full) paper should be uploaded before the submission deadline. An updated version of the paper can be submitted two months before the start of the Congress.
- All submissions have to be written in English.
- Submissions should not already have been submitted to a Journal on the date of April 30 of the year in which the Conference is organized

The Young scientists Sessions will be chaired by prominent Regional Scientists and the discussions will be led by senior experts from the field.

The discussants will be asked to provide a written version of their comments, with a level of dedication that is considered normal when writing referee reports for scientific journals. The comments are supposed to be presented in a constructive manner and should be targeted at improving the paper. Suggestions for further research can be a useful complement to a review. .

Epainos Award

The **Epainos Award** is awarded to the best paper presented by a young researcher under the age of 35.

To be eligible for the Epainos Award:

- **The criteria of age limit and position will apply to all authors in case of multi-authored papers:**
 - All authors of the paper should not yet have reached the age of 33 years on the 1st of September of the year of the Congress.
 - None of the authors can have a senior position as an associate- or full-professor.
- **The criteria used for assessing the papers are:**
 - The paper is conceptually sound
 - The work is innovative
 - The structure of the paper is logical and efficient
 - The style of writing is attractive
 - The paper is well-positioned in the literature
 - The paper provides a useful contribution to the field of Regional Science

These criteria are included in the standardized evaluation form for reviewers and all reviewers are explicitly asked to score papers on these criteria (on a 1-5 scale). The scores are made available to the Jury members as background information that can assist them in ranking the papers.

Application and submission via congress website.

Prize and publication

The first prize winner will receive € 600. A second prize may also be awarded, comprising € 300. In case of multiple first prize or second prize winning papers, the monetary rewards will be split equally (over papers).

The prize-winning papers will be considered for publication in the ERSA/RSI flagship Journals: [REGION](#), [Papers in Regional Science](#), [Regional Science Policy and Practice](#). Because the paper will be subject to standard review procedures, publication is not guaranteed. The prize winners will also be announced on the ERSA website and in the ERSA newsletter. The prize winning paper will be made downloadable from the ERSA website.

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