



## Young Scientists Sessions & Epainos Award Guidelines

### 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 must be written in English.

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 33.

#### 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 1<sup>st</sup> of September of the year of the Congress.
  - None of the authors can have a senior position as an associate- or full-professor.

- **Published papers are not eligible to enter Epainos Award competition.** If an accepted paper is published prior the Congress, it won't be anymore eligible for the Epainos Prize but can be programmed in a Young Scientists Session or Special Session with the author agreement.
- **Submitted manuscripts for the EPAINOS Prize must be unpublished** at the time of submission and not being forthcoming or accepted for publication at the same date. Manuscripts under review at the date of the submission of the EPAINOS prize but not accepted before the date of the Congress are eligible for the EPAINOS Prize. Manuscripts under review at the time of the submission but accepted before the date of the Congress are not eligible for the EPAINOS Prize but they still can be included in the EPAINOS Sessions or Young Scientists Sessions if the author(s) agree(s)
- **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 must be made 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/RSAl 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.

## Jury

### Structure of the committee

The Epainos Jury consists of 7 members:

- The chair
- The secretary
- The editor-in-chief of Papers in Regional Science (RSPP) or associated editor
- The managing editor of REGION or associated editor
- Two other 'permanent' members
- The chair of the Local Organizing Committee or appointed person

Each Jury Member has one vote in the selection of prize-winning papers. The chair of the LOC has no vote in issues concerning the planning and organization of the Young Scientists Sessions (such as proposals for new Jury Members).

Permanent members are appointed by the EOC for a period of 5 years. The Jury proposes new members for appointment to the EOC.

The current composition is as follows:

Chair – **Frank G. van Oort**  
Secretary – **Sébastien Bourdin**  
Editor-in-chief of Papers in Regional Science (RSPP) – **Rosella Nicolini**  
Managing Editor of REGION – **Francisco Rowe**  
Member – **Michiel Gerritse**  
Member – **Michael Wyrwich**  
#ERSA2024 Congress Local Organizing Committee – **TBA**

A brief description of the main tasks of Jury members is as follows.

**The chair has the main tasks of:**

- Chairing the yearly Jury meeting and making sure that the selection procedure of prize winning papers is procedurally fair (and efficient);
- Providing feedback, advice and assistance to the Secretary in case any unforeseen difficulties with the LOC, participants or chair-discussants should arise (which has never happened so far);
- Announcing the prize winners during the closing session of the congress;
- Reading the papers carefully in order to make well-founded contributions to the discussions that will precede the selection of the winning papers.

**The secretary has the main tasks of:**

- Carrying out all practical correspondence with the Local Organizing Committee, the Epainos Jury, and chair-discussants in the months prior to the ERSa Congress;
- Grouping the papers submitted into thematic sessions and inviting chair-discussants (experts in the field), if desired after consulting other Jury members for suggestions for chairs on specific themes;
- Checking whether all authors of papers submitted are younger than 33 and have no senior position at a faculty;
- Making the papers available for Jury members and chair-discussants (since recently by putting them on a temporary web site);
- Providing instructions to chair-discussants;
- Collecting written reviews for each paper and making these available to the Jury members in time, preferably with a summarizing table;
- Making sure that a meeting room and time will be available for (and known by) the Jury during the congress, and that prizes will be available during the closing session;
- Reading the papers carefully in order to make well-founded contributions to the discussions that will precede the selection of the winning papers.

**Other members have the main task of:**

- Reading the papers carefully in order to make well-founded contributions to the discussions that will precede the selection of the winning papers.

## **Chairs/discussants**

Apart from chairing the session and discussing the papers, a chair/discussant prepares a written evaluation and provides advice on prize eligibility. The latter is not included in the written evaluation, as a copy of this evaluation should be given to the paper presenters during the session. The written evaluation is sent in electronic format to the secretary, no later than two weeks before the congress starts.

## **Awards**

The funding for the prizes is covered on an equal share basis by ERSa and the LOC. The prizes include, apart from the money sums, a printed certificate, and an Award. The former is arranged by the secretary in cooperation with the LOC; the latter by the LOC.