**REGULATIONS**

# PYTHAGORAS NATIONAL SCIENCE AWARDS

The Pythagoras National Science Awards are a token of recognition for the achievements of Bulgarian researchers and research teams in different categories of science. The awards are one of the initiatives of the Ministry of Education and Science to encourage high-quality research potential and research excellence and to promote science and research with the public. The initiative for the competition started in 2003 and, over the years, it has gained acclaim as the most important and prestigious award for significant contribution to the development of Bulgarian science

# І. ELIGIBILITY REQUIREMENTS

Candidates for the Pythagoras Science Awards may **apply in the following competition categories**:

* Pythagoras Grand Award for overall scientific contribution;
* Pythagoras Grand Award for a young scientist;
* Pythagoras Award for a research team with a successful use and transfer of research results to the benefit of the industry and/or society;
* Pythagoras Award for resolving public challenges;
* Pythagoras Scientific Breakthrough Award
* Pythagoras Award for the company with the greatest amount of investments in research and development.

In the category “Pythagoras Grand Award for overall scientific contribution”, the applicant is expected to present in brief their most significant research results with a material added value. The award aims to acknowledge, on behalf of the Minister of Education and Science, the scientific contribution that helps to generate new useful knowledge and the search for answers to the great secrets of the Universe. The researcher must have assisted the development of the public understanding of and commitment to science, which is of exceptional importance to prepare citizens to make an informed personal and professional choice, governments to make decisions based on quality scientific information, legislatures to create and adopt adequate statutes.

In the category “Pythagoras Grand Award for a young scientist”, the applicant is expected to perform distinct research and educational activities at a higher educational institution and/or research organization having acquired a first master’s degree but not later than 10 years as of acquiring it.

In the category “Pythagoras Award for a research team with successful use and transfer of research results to the benefit of the industry and/or society”, the applicant team is expected to have concluded agreements with companies to commercialise research results, including lease contracts, have patents, certificates and copyright to software, industrial designs, utility models, trademarks and others, including such maintained as co-authors and implemented in Bulgaria and abroad, participate in the creation of start-up technology companies for the use and commercialisation of research results and intellectual property.

In the category “Pythagoras Award for resolving public challenges”, the applicant (individual or team) is expected to be in the process of searching for solutions to global challenges, including conducting research related to achieving the UN Sustainable Development Goals (SDG). The award envisaged the following sub-categories in which the panel will award up to 2 significant ones with recipients of awards for the current year:

* Healthcare: the applicant has contributed to the improvement and safeguarding of the health and wellbeing of the citizens of all ages through generating new knowledge and developing innovative solutions – diagnostics, tracking and treatment of diseases; prevention of and dealing with diseases of public significance; finding fairer and more sustainable systems of public healthcare in terms of costs.
* Inclusive society: the applicant has supported the strengthening of democratic values (the principles of rule of law and fundamental rights), is searching for solutions in the area of demographic policy and matters related to social inequality, preservation of the cultural heritage, including non-material heritage, etc.
* Civil safety for society: the applicant has assisted in responding to challenges stemming from continuing threats to security – cybercrime, natural and people-made disasters.
* Industrial and digital transformation: the applicant is expected to have assisted in the strengthening of the capacity and independence of industry in the area of key basic technologies for digitalisation and production, including in the area of space technology.
* Climate, energy and mobility: the applicant has identified innovative and accessible solutions related to reducing the negative impacts of climate change and/or has assisted in finding a solution for efficient, smart and safe use of renewable and/or environmentally-friendly energy sources and energy efficiency as well as access to clean, safe and physically accessible transportation and mobility.
* Bioeconomy and preservation of natural resources: the applicant’s research contributes to preserving the environment through sustainable management and use of natural and biological resources in order to stop the decline in biodiversity, to help the transition to a low-carbon circular economy with efficient use of resources and sustainable bioeconomy.

In the category “Scientific Breakthrough Award” (individual or team), the expectations are for a turning point in research revealing to the Bulgarian and international community new and original knowledge targeted at a specific practical goal.

In the category “Company with the greatest amount of investments in research and development”, the applicants strive to and invest in the use of scientific achievements to secure an advantage and make an essential contribution to improving the quality of life. In order to apply, the company must be registered and do business in the country.

General requirements for the applicants:

* Completed application form;
* Reference information about scientific metrics, including patents (if the application is on behalf a team, the total number of metrics is submitted, which the panel will divide by the number of team members);
* Reference information about participation in international organizations and projects;
* Statement about the contribution to the development of science;
* Evidence of relevance to the respective category.

The applicants present their research results for a period of 3 years (2018 - 2020) except for the Pythagoras Grand Award for overall contribution for which, the applicant summaries their most significant scientific results.

Applications may be submitted by research and public organizations, groups of scientists and individual scientists. The Ministry of Education and Science reserves the right to extend individual invitations for participation to renowned scientists, identified with the help of analytical data from platforms tracking scientific metrics (SCOPUS and/or Web of Science).

The procedure is closed to scientists and research teams, who were recipients of the award in previous years in the respective category. Exceptions are the recipients of the “Pythagoras Grand Award for a young scientist”, who have received the award not less than 3 years ago.

# ІІ. PANEL

The composition of the panel will be determined by virtue of an order of the Minister of Education and Science.

The panel is up made of 5 Bulgarian scientists working abroad, 3 analysts from science metrics platforms (SCOPUS and Web of Science), a representative of the Ministry of Education and Science, a representative of the journalist community and of non-governmental organizations with core activities in the area of research and development and the transfer of knowledge and technology in Bulgaria.

The panel chair will be elected by an open ballot from among all members. The person that has received more than half of the votes of the panel will become the chair.

The panel is elected for a period of 3 years as of the date of the order of the Minister of Education and Science.

Depending on availability, the panel members will participate in sessions online or in person. A record will be kept of every session.

The panel members will sign a Declaration of Confidentiality and Conflict of Interests.

# ІІІ. MECHANISMS OF PROCEDURE

After the deadline for submission of proposals and applications in the procedure, the panel will review the submissions and determine up to three applicants in every category to proceed to the next stage of the competition.

In selecting nominees, the panel will also take into account specific indicators (specific of research area, researcher’s public image, contribution to the institution the researcher works at, training, public role, volunteer work and other causes for Bulgarian science, reputation of the publications, where works are published, number of citations, where they are made, etc.).

The panel may transfer nominees from one category to another as appropriate.

A panel member, who represents a nominating organization, will not have the right to vote in the selection of nominees for the Pythagoras award in the respective category if the three nominees, proposed in the category, include a representative of the panel member’s organization.

After up to three nominees are selected for every category, a brief video profile will be prepared for every applicant(s)

The videos will be disseminated via the mass media and put to the vote of the Bulgarian public.

Taking into account the results of the vote, its ranking and the information provided by the scientific metric platforms, the panel will prepare a report and submit it to the Minister of Education and Science. The award in every category will be given to one researcher/team.

Within one week of submission of the panel report, the Minister of Education and Science will determine the award recipients for the current year by virtue of an order.

# ІV. AWARD

For:

* Pythagoras Grand Award for overall scientific contribution – the award recipient will receive a diploma, a Pythagoras statuette and a cash award.
* Pythagoras Grand Award for a young scientist – the award recipient will receive a diploma, a Pythagoras statuette and a cash award.
* Pythagoras Award for a research team with successful use and transfer of research results to the benefit of the industry and/or society – the award recipient will receive a diploma, a plaque and a cash award.
* Pythagoras Award for resolving public challenges – the award recipient will receive a diploma, a plaque and a cash award.
* Pythagoras Scientific Breakthrough Award – the award recipient will receive a diploma, a plaque and a cash award.
* Pythagoras Award for the company with the greatest amount of investments in research and development – the award recipient will receive a diploma, a plaque and a cash award.

All applicants nominated by the panel will receive diplomas.

# AWARD CEREMONY

The award ceremony will be held in an appropriate format, close to the national holiday 24 May – Day of St.st. Cyril and Methodius, of the Bulgarian alphabet, enlightenment and culture and of the Slavonic letters.

**Every project proposal must be submitted in Bulgarian and in English to the following e-mails:**

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