

## European Young Chemists Award (EYCA)

### Aim

The aim of the European Young Chemist Award (EYCA) is to showcase and recognize the excellent research being carried out by young scientists working in the chemical sciences. In particular the award is intended to honor and encourage younger chemists whose current research displays a high level of excellence and distinction. It seeks to recognize and reward younger chemists of exceptional ability who show promise for substantial future achievements in chemistry-related research fields.

### Sponsor, Competition and Prizes

EYCA is given every two years during the EuChemS Congress under the patronage of *EuChemS* and *EYCN*.<sup>1</sup> EYCA is sponsored by the Società Chimica Italiana (SCI) and the Federazione Nazionale degli Ordini dei Chimici e dei Fisici (FNCF).

Additionally, on each occasion, other EuChemS Member Societies and other stakeholders are invited to financially contribute to the prize. For every edition, the whole budget is set up and coordinated by the EuChemS Secretariat. If any money is left from a certain edition, it is used for the next one. If there is a gap in funding, EuChemS contributes up to 1/3 of the total budget.

The EYCA call is provided on the EuChemS website and further promoted on other relevant websites (e.g. the official EuChemS Chemistry Congress and the EYCN website) and on related social media. The EYCA call provides the formats, the rules, regulations and the deadline for the application.

By evaluating the applications, up to six candidates will be selected in each category, therefore allowing up to 12 shortlisted candidates as EYCA finalists and will be invited to present the own research results in front of a Jury and the whole audience during the EYCA Competition Session at the EYCN Symposium, organized during the EuChemS Chemistry Congress.

The EYCA Prizes are generally given for two levels of career: the PhD level and the Early-career Researcher level (not more than 8 years of experience since completion of the Doctoral Degree). The PhD level includes all the current PhD students and the young chemists who obtained the PhD within one year before the EYCA competition/EuChemS Chemistry Congress.

For each level one Gold and one Silver Medals are appointed.

After the competition session, the Jury will establish the winners, at which will be asked to give a short presentation of their work at the EYCA Ceremony during the Closing Ceremony of the EuChemS Congress.

In addition to the medals, each winner will receive a certificate and an amount of money, which is quantified by the EuChemS-EYCA organizers in the EuChemS-EYCA call according to the budget.

The Jury may also assign special mentions to the finalists.

### Application

Applications has to be presented following the instructions of the EYCA call.

Applicants can submit only one application for each EYCA edition. The online application form is set up by the EuChemS Secretariat. All applications must be done online.

For the applications the following items are at least required:

- 1) A filled in application form where the applicant has to indicate his/her level of career.
- 2) One copy of an abstract authored or co-authored by the applicant and submitted to the EuChemS Chemistry Congress. Only abstracts that have been accepted from a Symposium of the Congress are considered for the Award.
- 3) A description of the research featured in the abstract in which the following points are specified:
  - The aim of the work and the state of the art.

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<sup>1</sup> Established in 2006 at the first European Association for Chemical and Molecular Sciences (EuChemS) Congress as an initiative of the Italian Chemical Society (SCI) and recognized by EuChemS since then  
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- The originality of the work and the specific contribution of the applicant.
  - Significant results and future directions.
- 4) One or a maximum of two support letters provided from the applicant thesis advisor or other respected scientists.
  - 5) A brief Curriculum Vitae, which has to be no longer than one page.
  - 6) A document that certifies the attainment of the doctorate or the status of doctoral student (important: for the PhD certificates, the date of dissertation must be present).

### **Selection Process and Criteria**

The complete and correct submissions will be reviewed by the European Award Committee (EYCAC, see below). On the basis of their evaluation a number of finalists will be selected. Finalists will be notified by the EYCAC Chair approximately four weeks before the EuChemS Congress. It will be also request to submit a head/shoulders photograph for displaying at the Congress. The finalists will be invited to deliver a talk on their research at the European Young Chemists Award Competition Session at the EYCN Symposium during the EuChemS Chemistry Congress. The talk should focus on the topic presented in the abstract of the candidate; however, it may be implemented including other his/her researches.

On the basis of these talks and of the document presented in the application, a Jury will then select the Award winners.

The decision of the Jury is final.

The selection process will look in particular for evidence of:

- Excellence in chemistry and related fields
- Originality and independent contribution
- Thoroughness and a depth of understanding of the research area
- Awareness of the future perspectives of their research.

All above criteria have equal weight.

### **European Award Committee for the EuChemS-EYCN Award (EYCAC)**

1. The European Award Committee (EYCAC) is composed of maximum five (5) members including the Chairperson.
2. The Executive Board selects members of the EYCAC from nominated representatives of funding societies<sup>2</sup>, EYCN<sup>3</sup> and other stakeholders.
3. Representative of the main sponsor of the EYCA is the Chair of the Jury.
4. In appointing the EYCAC the Executive Board is aiming at diversity in terms of gender, location, fields of chemistry, etc.
5. Members of the EYCAC serve a 5-years term.
6. The EYCAC Chair is the contact person for the EuChemS Executive Board.
7. EYCAC reviews the nominations, ranks the nominees and reports to the EuChemS Executive Board.
8. EuChemS Executive Board elects finalists based on the recommendation of the EYCAC.
9. Typically, the Chair of the EYCAC will present the Award and the laudation during the EYCA Ceremony at the Closing session of the EuChemS Congress, together with the EuChemS President.

For the EYCA organization (web site, contacts, dissemination, secretary) the Chair is assisted by the EuChemS Secretariat.

*Approved by the Executive Board at its meeting in February 2020 in Den Haag, decision 2002/11.*

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<sup>2</sup> Funding societies have maximum two representatives on EYCAC.

<sup>3</sup> One member of the Jury is nominated by the EYCN, on condition that this person is not a current EYCN delegate.