

STATUTE

ESET Science Award

Preamble

The ESET Foundation, in cooperation with ESET, spol. s r. o.:

1. being acutely aware of the key significance of science in the development and prosperity of society,
 2. intending to focus its efforts on enhancing the motivation of scientists to achieve internationally acclaimed scientific results,
 3. with the intention to also enhance the recognition of Slovak scientists' achievements at the international level and thus to elevate the prestige of Slovak science globally,
- supports the Slovak science community and the overall development of Slovakia by way of the prestigious **ESET Science Award**.

ART. 1

Categories

The award is granted to individuals in three categories:

1. Outstanding Scientist in Slovakia
2. Outstanding Scientist in Slovakia Under the Age of 35
3. Outstanding Academic in Slovakia

One award is granted in each category once per year.

ART. 2

Nomination criteria in the respective categories

1. Outstanding Scientist in Slovakia

- a) The award is granted to an individual whose work results achieved over the past 10 years have exceptionally contributed to increasing the visibility of Slovak science within the European or global scientific community.
- b) The award does not constitute a lifetime achievement award. When assessing nominations, particular consideration is given primarily to the results achieved by the nominee within the last ten years, their outstanding quality, current relevance, demonstrable impact within the European or global scientific community, as well as the nominee's future potential.

- c) The nominee must be a scientist who is active in an organisation or association that is demonstrably engaged in science and research (in particular Slovak universities, institutes of the Slovak Academy of Sciences, departmental research institutes, legal entities or associations based in the Slovak Republic) (hereinafter referred to as the „Organisation“). At the same time, he/she must be an employee, partner, member, statutory body or member of a statutory body, proxy, employee in permanent civil service or employee performing work in the public interest of the Organisation (including a participant in an association) for a minimum of three years at the closing date of the nominations, with the vast majority of the results for which he/she has been nominated having been achieved within the Organisation.
- d) The nominee must be regarded as an outstanding scientist in their respective scientific field (hereinafter the “Nominee’s expertise”). The Nominee’s expertise shall be demonstrated as follows:
 - i) authorship or co-authorship of a significant published work or published works with a verifiable impact on the global research area;
 - ii) citations in acknowledged Current Content journals with a verifiable impact on the global research area;
 - iii) involvement in international research projects with a verifiable impact on the global research area;
 - iv) enhancing the professional recognition of Slovak science and research abroad in a manner other than those outlined above;
 - v) contribution of scientific research work with an impact on society.
- e) An important criterion also consists of the nominee’s verifiable exceptional contribution to Slovak society.
- f) An award laureate may be nominated again after a period of three years following receipt of the award.

2. Outstanding Scientist in Slovakia Under the Age of 35

- a) The award is granted to a young scientist whose activity may be regarded as an exceptional contribution to the Slovak scientific field with great future potential.
- b) The nominee must be a post-doctoral researcher with a maximum age of 35 years in the calendar year of nomination, who has been with the Organisation for at least one year as of the closing date for nominations in that year.
- c) The Nominee’s expertise shall be assessed based on fulfilment of the criteria specified in clause 1, par. e) of this Article and by meeting at least two of the criteria specified in clause 1, par. d), sections i through v of this Article.
- d) An important criterion also consists of the nominee’s verifiable exceptional contribution in their respective research field at the global scientific level in the respective field.
- e) Each award winner may only receive the award once.

3. Outstanding Academic in Slovakia

- a) The award is granted to an individual whose activities have delivered an exceptional academic contribution in their field.
- b) The nominee must be a university academic working at an higher education institution in Slovakia according to Act No. 131/2002 Coll. on Higher Education Institutions and on the alteration and amendment of some Acts (hereinafter as a “University”) for at least 3 years. The nominee must have been working at said University with a stipulated weekly working time (i.e. the extent of the employment relationship must be 100%).

- c) The nominee’s expertise is assessed according to his/her academic skills and scientific productivity as demonstrated over the previous 6 years, pursuant to the following criteria:
- i) conducting and initiating of classes;
 - ii) professional results achieved by supervised students;
 - iii) participation in accredited study programmes;
 - iv) innovation in pedagogical approach;
 - v) making the scientific field visible through the organisation of student events or other forms of promotion;
 - vi) authorship or co-authorship of (a) significant publication(s);
 - vii) citations in reputable journals with high impact;
 - viii) participation in international research projects;
 - ix) student feedback and references.
- d) Each award winner may only receive the award once.

ART. 3

Submission of nominations in the respective categories

1. Outstanding Scientist in Slovakia

- A scientist who meets the conditions may nominate himself/herself, or, with his/her consent, he/she can be nominated by:
 - i) The Organisation in which he/she works,
 - ii) The ESET Science Award Alumni Club,
 - iii) The Learned Society of Slovakia.
- Nominations are submitted electronically in English by filling out the form on the ESET Science Award webpage (www.ESETScienceAward.com).

2. Outstanding Scientist in Slovakia Under the Age of 35

- With the nominee’s consent, a nomination may be submitted by:
 - i) A direct superior in the nominee’s Organisation,
 - ii) The ESET Science Award Alumni Club,
 - iii) The Learned Society of Slovakia.
- A scientist who meets the conditions may not nominate himself/herself.
- Nominations are submitted electronically in English by filling out the form on the ESET Science Award webpage (www.ESETScienceAward.com).

3. Outstanding Academic in Slovakia

- A University academic who meets the conditions may nominate himself/herself, or, with his/her consent, he/she can be nominated by:
 - i) His/her superior at the University where he/she works,
 - ii) The ESET Science Award Alumni Club,
 - iii) The Learned Society of Slovakia.
- Nominations are submitted electronically by filling out the form on the ESET Science Award webpage (www.ESETScienceAward.com).

A mandatory part of the nomination is a declaration by the nominee confirming that, in their research activities, they comply with the principles of the [National Code of Conduct for Scientific Integrity](#)¹ hereinafter the “Code of Conduct”) issued by the Slovak Centre of Scientific and Technical Information. The organiser explicitly emphasises that ethical and responsible conduct represents a key criterion for participation in the nomination and evaluation process. Any breach of the principles of the Code of Conduct or other conduct contrary to the rules of scientific integrity shall be considered a serious violation and may result in the immediate exclusion of the nomination or the subsequent withdrawal of the award (Art. 6).

ART. 4 Assessment of the award nominations

Award laureates in the categories „Outstanding Scientist in Slovakia“ and „Outstanding Scientist in Slovakia Under the Age of 35“ are selected from the finalists by an international committee comprised of selected international experts (hereinafter the „International Committee“). Its members are published annually on the ESET Science Award website (www.ESETScienceAward.com). The finalists in both categories will be selected by the ESET Foundation via committees comprised of experts from various scientific fields.

The award laureate in category „Outstanding Academic in Slovakia“ is selected by an evaluation committee comprised of selected Slovak experts, the list of whom is published on the ESET Science Award website (www.ESETScienceAward.com) following the official announcement of the laureate.

The assessment of award nominations in all categories also includes an assessment of compliance with the principles of research ethics and integrity specified in the Code of Conduct¹.

The award organisers reserve the right to select any number of finalists or not to select a laureate at all. Nominated individuals shall have no legal or other entitlement to advancement to the finalist stage or to the granting of the Award.

ART. 5 ESET Science Award schedule

The ESET Science Award is granted annually beginning in 2019.

The opening and closing dates for nominations for the respective calendar year are published annually on the ESET Science Award webpage (www.ESETScienceAward.com) in the course of the respective year. The award laureates are announced during the celebratory gala evening in October of the respective calendar year.

ART. 6 Awards in the respective categories

1. Outstanding Scientist in Slovakia

- The laureate receives a financial prize in the amount of EUR 100,000. The prize is not bound to any particular purpose. A symbolic work of art is also part of the prize.
- The finalist in this category receives a financial prize in the amount of EUR 3,000.

¹ The National Code of Conduct for Scientific Integrity: https://eraportal.sk/wp-content/uploads/2024/02/DECLARATION-on-Fostering-the-Culture-of-Scientific-Integrity-in-Slovakia_web.pdf

2. Outstanding Scientist in Slovakia Under the Age of 35

- The laureate receives a financial prize in the amount of EUR 10,000. The prize is not bound to any particular purpose. A symbolic work of art is also part of the prize.
- The finalist in this category receives a financial prize in the amount of EUR 1,000.

3. Outstanding Academic in Slovakia

- The laureate receives a financial prize in the amount of EUR 10,000. The prize is not bound to any particular purpose. A symbolic work of art is also part of the prize.
- The finalist in this category receives a financial prize in the amount of EUR 1,000.

The amount of the financial prize specified in this article represents an amount net of the tax payable pursuant to the Act 595/2003 Coll., on Income Tax, as amended, and is not bound to any particular purpose.

Should the laureate violate the Code of Conduct in a substantial manner, the ESET Foundation becomes entitled to remove the ESET Science Award and the symbolic work of art from the laureate. Upon the request of the Foundation, the laureate becomes obligated to return the symbolic work of art and to stop using the title of ESET Science Award laureate in the respective category and abstain from any acts that could damage the reputation of the ESET Foundation in connection with the received award.

ART. 7

Consent with the statute and subsequent communication and media coverage

By submitting a nomination or giving consent to the submission of a nomination, the nominee freely and unconditionally consents to the conditions of the ESET Science Award Statute. For the purposes of securing the handling and registration of the submission, assessment by the commission, notifying of the results, organisation of the celebratory gala evening and the handling of its invitations, and commercial marketing within the framework of the ESET Science Award, the nominee also acknowledges that the ESET Foundation may process personal data which is a part of the nomination and the corresponding documentation, as well as other data obtained in connection with the ESET Science Award in compliance with the [Privacy Statement](#). If the nomination is submitted by a third party, an essential condition of the submission is the nominee's consent to the submission. The nominee's consent to the submission must also include the explicit consent of the nominee with this statute and a confirmation of being familiar with the [Privacy Statement](#).

By submitting a nomination or giving consent to the submission of a nomination, the nominee agrees that if he/she becomes the finalist or laureate of the award, he/she also consents to the following obligations:

- participation in the celebratory gala evening of the respective year;
- presentation of their work within the remit of the scientific award project during activities intended to promote the recognition of the project (media presentation, public lectures, debates) and the ESET Science Award. The scope of the presentation will be personally agreed;
- active participation in the group of laureates and finalists of the ESET Science Award and other promotional activities of this group even after receiving the prize within the ESET Science Award category in which the nominee was nominated. The scope will be personally agreed.

With the ceremonial announcement of the laureate in the Outstanding Scientist in Slovakia category, the laureate becomes a member of [ESET Science Award Alumni Club](#).

ART. 8 Final Provisions

This statute has been approved by the ESET Foundation Governing Board and its current wording is available on the ESET Science Award webpage (www.ESETScienceAward.com).

This statute comes into force on 2 March 2026 and supersedes the ESET Science Award Statue that came into force on 15 January 2025.



Ing. Miroslav Trnka
Chairman of the ESET Foundation
Governing Board