

Evaluation Talent Award 2024

Process and Guidelines

The Award

The Austrian Council for Science, Research, Innovation and Technology Development and the Austrian Platform for Research and Technology Policy Evaluation jointly present the **Evaluation Talent Award**. It is intended to contribute to making the importance of evaluations for evidence-based policy-making more visible to the public. The award is given 1-2 years for an outstanding evaluator research, technology and innovation (RTI) policy evaluation and aims to give evaluation talents the opportunity to position themselves in the relevant community. Focus is on Austrian evaluators or international peers with evaluation activities in Austria.

The **Evaluation Talent Award** awards a prize money of € 2.000 which is dedicated to training measures. The award winner and his/her achievements will be publicised within the professional community. The award ceremony will take place in the course of the **REvaluation Conference 4-6 December 2024**. A professionally short film and a photo series will be produced to present the achievements in RTI policy evaluation greater in detail. Additional visibility will be enabled through an notice in the *fteval/ Journal for Research and Technology Policy Evaluation*, the REvaluation Podcast as well as the fteval Website.

The award winner will be selected by a jury consisting of renowned evaluators as well as evaluation commissioners and/or other stakeholders from the field of RTI policy (with Austrian/German-speaking focus).

The Jury 2024

The jury is chaired by the Austrian Council for Science, Research, Innovation and Technology Development. The jury will convene in June 2024. The jury 2024 is composed of the following individuals:

- Mamen Calatrava Moreno (ÖBB)
- Johannes Gadner (Institute for Advanced Study in Toulouse)
- Anton Graschopf (Rat für Forschung, Wissenschaft, Innovation und Technologieentwicklung)
- Leonhard Jörg (FFG)
- Karin Kohlweg (EES)
- Alexandra Mazak-Huemer (Rat für Forschung, Wissenschaft, Innovation und Technologieentwicklung)
- Simone Mesner (BMBWF)
- Elisabeth Nindl (JRC Sevilla)
- Rupert Pichler (BMK)
- Sabine Pohoryles-Drexel (BMAW)
- Falk Reckling (FWF)
- Sonja Sheikh (ACR and fteval)
- Michael Stampfer (WWTF)
- Magdalena Wicher (IHS)

The Selection Meeting

In order to have a quorum, at least one chairperson and at least half of the jury members must be present, otherwise a new date must be found. The fteval platform (Isabella Wagner) takes the minutes of the jury meeting.

The Awarding Process

The Evaluation Talent Award is presented on the basis of corresponding nominations. These are collected and prepared by the fteval platform and shared with the jury members in full and in a clear presentation (PowerPoint slides) in good time before the meeting. The fulfilment of the formal criteria is checked in this step. Nominations can be made by members of fteval and other people from the relevant community until 24 May 2024.

Nominations will be assessed jointly during the jury meeting, whereby the following two criteria will be applied:

- A) Role and responsibility in relation to the evaluation reports to be assessed
(Weighting: 40%)
 - Link between scientific quality and relevance to the object of evaluation
 - Involvement in evaluation projects in relation to previous career (age; number and type of collaborations over time)
 - Contribution of specific skills
 - Use and testing of innovative approaches and methods of evaluation
 - Comprehensible systematic assessment of the results and recommendations for action
- B) Potential of the nominee for the evaluation landscape
(Gewichtung: 60%)
 - Previous involvement in the field of evaluation in the broad sense, e.g. through committee work, review activities, support for evaluation-relevant working groups, events or other initiatives
 - Publications
 - Know-how development, further training in the field of evaluation (incl. methods)
 - Lectures / presentations at relevant conferences / events
 - Special skills and experience that can be useful for the further development of the evaluation culture in Austria

A maximum of 5 points can be awarded for each criterion. The number of points in category A is weighted at 40 per cent, category B at 60 per cent. The nominations are discussed individually and the points per category and for each jury member are awarded during the meeting. The average score of the individual jury members is weighted by category. The sum of the two scores forms the basis for the ranking. The person ranked first becomes the winner.

If there is no leader after the first evaluation round, additional criteria can be used jointly to determine a first-ranked winner. These additional criteria must be argued and documented transparently.

The aim is to reach a consensus decision. If this is not possible, a two-thirds majority of the jury members present will decide.

Formal Criteria

The following formal criteria must be met:

The nominees must not have reached the age of 38 by the submission deadline. The age limit can be treated flexibly if there are interruptions due to parental leave or other specific justified conditions. These must be clearly stated in the standardised curriculum vitae.

Furthermore, the nominees must agree to the nomination and provide a corresponding CV (to be obtained from the fteval office, which provides a standardised template for this purpose). The nominees must submit a declaration in which they confirm that they

- (a) are willing to accept the nomination and subsequently any prize, and agree to the associated media presentation;
- (b) are in a position to explain the evaluation in a comprehensible manner during the award ceremony and to the media;
- (c) have played a significant part - and not just a supporting role - in the evaluation work on which the award is based.

With regard to the last point, the following conditions must be met:

- It is an evaluation of an intervention/measure in the field of national or international RTI policy, provided that the latter was carried out by an Austrian organisation or Austrian evaluators and/or has a clear connection to Austria.
- The evaluation was completed in the last three completed calendar years or in the current year by the nomination deadline
- The evaluation is available in the fteval repository or can be published there until the jury meeting.
- The nominated person must work in an Austrian organisation at the time of submission or demonstrate a clear connection to Austria in their work.

Bias Regulation

Any bias or conflicts of interest of the jury members in relation to the nominees will be checked at the beginning of the meeting and taken into account during the deliberations. If submissions for persons or from institutes with whom a special professional or private relationship exists are being discussed, the relevant jury member should not take part in the deliberations or should leave the meeting room for the duration of the discussion. Any other procedure to avoid conflicts of interest must be justified and documented.