



## **Presentation**

In accordance with its mission and values, the European Court of Auditors (ECA), the EU's independent external auditor, is committed to being at the forefront in developing public sector auditing, both in the EU and worldwide. The ECA is keen to further develop active links with the scientific community and thus benefit from the wealth of knowledge which scholars and researchers of all disciplines are creating through their intellectual work on prospects and challenges related to public spending, auditing and financial accountability in the European Union.

Audit institutions need to develop and enhance their ability to analyse change, to address the related risks and challenges and to continuously adapt their audit methods and approaches. To do so, it is essential for the ECA to develop a mutually beneficial relationship with academic researchers. In other terms, audit profession and research must advance hand-in-hand.

With this goal in mind, the ECA has established in 2010 the biennial "European Court of Auditors Award" aiming at providing an incentive and recognition for research on public audit related issues.

Each edition pays tribute to a person who has actively contributed to the reputation of the ECA as an EU institution. The sixth edition of the ECA Award will pay tribute to the memory of **Marcel Mart** (1927-2019), the first Luxembourgish ECA Member (1977-1989) and ECA President (1984-1989).

### **The 2020 "European Court of Auditors Award – Marcel Mart" will be governed by the following rules:**

#### **1. Subject**

The ECA Award is addressed to European academics and researchers **for peer-reviewed academic publications (articles, papers), books and theses on theoretical or empirical studies related to public sector auditing, in particular within a European Union context.**

Starting from this edition, the ECA Award will have a specific focus linked to a topic directly related to the ECA's work. The theme of the 2020 edition will be: **'EU added value'**.

EU added value can be defined as the **value that an EU action adds through EU policy, regulation, legal instruments and spending, over and above that created by Member States acting alone.** EU citizens and their representatives not only expect assurance that their money is spent in accordance with the applicable rules, but also want to know if the intended results have been achieved. Since its establishment, the ECA has been reporting on the performance of EU policies and spending, thus raising questions on the added value that the EU action is expected to deliver. In its strategy for 2018-2020, the ECA made it a strategic objective to assess whether common action taken at EU level was the best way to achieve the desired outcome, whether more or less EU-level intervention would

be needed in view of the objectives of the policy or funding, and whether the action at EU level has been delivered more economically, efficiently or effectively than Member States acting alone.

At the same time, EU action and spending should be considered in other policy areas for which the objectives 'cannot be sufficiently achieved by the Member States ... but can rather, by reason of the scale or effects of the proposed action, be better achieved at Union level' (Article 5 TEU). In the current debate, this issue is often referred to as '**the cost of non-Europe**'. Migration, defence and security, digital market, unemployment insurance and public health are only a few examples of areas for such 'potential' EU added value.

By focussing the 2020 edition on the theme of EU added value, the ECA intends to reaffirm that the researchers' contribution to this debate is crucial, and that a more systematic analysis of the actual and potential EU added value should be fostered both in the Member States and at EU level.

## **2. Award**

The winner will receive an award certificate, a medal, and a prize of 5.000 euros from the ECA.

## **3. Eligibility**

The award is open to:

- researchers and scholars, for a publication (article, paper in a peer-reviewed academic journal or book) which must have been published on or after 1 January 2016; and
- postgraduates who have written a Master's thesis or a PhD thesis. The viva examination must have taken place on or after 1 January 2016.

Candidates eligible for applying for this ECA Award are to be nationals of the European Union or to have completed their thesis at a university in the European Union. The Master's or PhD thesis should not have been submitted for any previous edition of the ECA Award.

Current or former Members or staff of the ECA, or any other EU institution or body, are not eligible for this award.

## **4. Applications**

Candidates shall submit by email in PDF format:

- a) a copy of their publication (book, article, paper) or thesis;
- b) a short summary (maximum 3000 words) of the publication or thesis;
- c) a justification of why they consider the publication or thesis to be relevant for the theme of the 2020 edition, i.e. EU added value (maximum 1000 words);
- d) their curriculum vitae.

The publication or thesis itself [cf. item a) above] may be in any of the official languages of the European Union, but all other supporting documentation referred to above [cf. items b) to d) above] must be submitted in either English or French.

In addition to the documents presented with the application, the selection panel may request further information from applicants.

By submitting an application, candidates consent to the processing of their personal data as described in the specific private statement annexed to this document.

## **5. Selection process**

The ECA will submit the applications to a selection panel.

The selection panel will be composed of experts in the fields related to public audit and the specific Award theme, chosen among ECA Members and senior management, economists from public institutions and academia. A Member of the ECA will chair the meetings of the selection panel.

The selection panel will independently assess the applications, identify the publication or thesis which is considered to merit the award, and provide a brief justification of their choice.

The selection panel may propose not to confer the award if none of the submitted applications meets an outstanding level of quality. It may also confer the award jointly and *ex aequo* to two applicants.

In addition, the selection panel may also confer a special mention to a deserving application.

The decisions of the selection panel shall be final and may not be challenged in the courts.

The ECA's Directorate of the Presidency will provide the secretariat of the selection panel.

## **6. Criteria**

The main criteria used in the assessment process are the quality and relevance of the applicant's contribution to the theme and the innovative character of the work.

## **7. Award ceremony**

The winner will be invited to a ceremony at the ECA to receive the award. The winner may be invited to deliver a lecture of up to 30 minutes on that occasion. This will take place in Luxembourg in October 2020, on a date to be scheduled by the ECA. The travel expenses of the winner will be covered by the ECA.

## **8. Deadline**

Applications should be submitted in an electronic format by 31 May 2020 and should be addressed to:

[Eca-award@eca.europa.eu](mailto:Eca-award@eca.europa.eu)

Applications arriving at the ECA after this date will not be accepted.

## Annex

### Data Protection – Applicants’ Specific Privacy Statement

This privacy statement concerns the European Court of Auditors’ (ECA) processing of personal data for the attribution of the ECA Award for research on public sector auditing.

The manner in which the ECA processes and protects your personal data is described below.

By participating to this edition of the ECA Award, you give your consent to the processing of your data by the ECA as described in this statement.

#### **Who is responsible for handling your data?**

Data processing operations are under the responsibility of the Director of the Directory of the Presidency (DOP).

#### **Why do we collect your data?**

The DOP Team in charge of the organisation of the ECA Award event will use the data for processing the submissions to the selection panel composed of experts in the fields related to public audit and the specific Award theme. The selection panel will examine the submissions, select the admissible applicants, and determine the winner(s). A representative of the Directorate for Information, Workplace and Innovation (SG2-DIWI) will assist the DOP in the process.

The DOP team will then invite the winner(s) to participate in the Award ceremony. The results will be published on the ECA website and social media.

Your personal data will not be processed for any purpose other than that for which it has been collected.

#### **What are the rules governing the use of your data?**

[Regulation \(EU\) 2018/1725](#) of the European Parliament and of the Council of 23 October 2018 on the protection of natural persons with regard to the processing of personal data by the Union institutions, bodies, offices and agencies and on the free movement of such data is the legal framework for the processing of personal data within the Court.

The legal basis for the processing of your personal data is the statement that you have given your free consent. You have the right to withdraw your consent at any time.

#### **What personal data do we collect?**

The following categories of data will be collected: Full name, address, phone number, nationality, date of birth, CV; photos and bank details for the award winner(s).

#### **Who has access to your data and to whom will your data be disclosed?**

The DOP team, the members of the selection panel and the SG2-DIWI representative have access to all applicants’ data according to the “need to know” principle. The winner(s) name and photos taken during the ceremony will be published on the ECA website and various social media. The accounting department will process bank details and proof of travel expenses for payment of prize and reimbursement of travel expenses.

Your personal data may be transferred to other recipients: the ECA's Legal Service, if legal advice is required and to the European Ombudsman, the European Data Protection Supervisor, the ECA Data Protection Officer if you lodge a complaint.

### **How do we safeguard against possible misuse of or unauthorised access to your data?**

Data sets are stored securely in the ECA's data centre in Luxembourg, and are therefore covered by the numerous measures taken to protect the availability, integrity and confidentiality of the institution's electronic assets. Access to personal data is restricted to a specific user group.

Access rights are granted on a "need to know" basis, taking account of the role, post and responsibilities of the user concerned. These rights are continually updated as staff assignments change.

The ECA's Secretary-General has overall responsibility for implementation of the rules on access rights and compliance with the rules on data protection, but has delegated responsibility in these areas to different entities. The Court has an information security policy, and an Information Security Officer who ensures that the policy is implemented correctly and that the related checks are tested for efficiency.

### **How long do we keep your data?**

Your personal data will be retained for 3 months after the procedure end and for an indefinite period for the award winner(s). Bank details and proof of travel expenses for the award winner(s) will be retained for 10 years.

### **What are your rights?**

Your rights in respect of your personal data are set out in Articles 17 to 24 of Regulation (EU) 2018/1725.

You have the right to access your personal data and to have them rectified without undue delay if it is inaccurate or incomplete. Under certain conditions, you have the right to ask us to erase your personal data or to restrict its use. Where applicable, you have the right to object to the processing of your personal data, at any time, on grounds relating to your particular situation, and the right to data portability.

We will consider your request, take a decision and communicate it to you without undue delay and in any event within one month of receipt of the request. This period may be extended by two further months where necessary.

You can exercise your rights by contacting the data controller, using the contact information given below.

### **Who should you contact if you have a query or complaint?**

The first point of contact is the data controller at [ECA-award@eca.europa.eu](mailto:ECA-award@eca.europa.eu).

You may contact at any time the ECA's Data Protection Officer ([ECA-Data-Protection@eca.europa.eu](mailto:ECA-Data-Protection@eca.europa.eu)) if you have any concerns/complaints about the processing of your personal data.

European Court of Auditors  
Data Protection Officer  
12, rue Alcide De Gasperi  
1615 Luxembourg  
LUXEMBOURG

You have the right to lodge a complaint, at any time, with the European Data Protection Supervisor ([edps@edps.europa.eu](mailto:edps@edps.europa.eu)) concerning the processing of your personal data.