

# **RULES OF THE PRIZE "LOMBARDY IS RESEARCH"**

2025 EDITION

## **Article 1 (Establishing the Prize Lombardy is Research)**

1. As part of the Research Day in memory of Umberto Veronesi, pursuant to Article 2, paragraph 6, letter e) of Regional Law no. 29/2016, the Regional Government establishes the International Prize "Lombardy is Research" to publicly acknowledge the dedication and talent of individuals whose research, discoveries, and inventions have significantly contributed to the advancement of scientific and technological knowledge.
2. The 2025 edition of the International Prize "Lombardy is Research" is dedicated to Life Sciences and will be awarded to scientists who have made a significant contribution to the development of innovative methods for early diagnosis or preventive medicine, with the goal of improving both life expectancy and quality of life. The Prize will focus on innovations or scientific, pharmacological, technological, or operational contributions that enable the early identification of diseases and increasingly targeted and personalized interventions to prevent their onset.
3. Specifically, the areas of interest include:
  - a. Early Diagnosis:
    - i. Early detection of diseases
    - ii. Innovations in radiology, histopathology, or laboratory medicine
    - iii. Genomic and proteomic approaches to diagnostics
    - iv. The use of artificial intelligence and data analysis
  - b. Preventive Medicine:
    - i. Personalized screening and preventive interventions
    - ii. Vaccination and immunization
    - iii. Genetic and molecular approaches to prevention
    - iv. Health promotion and disease prevention
4. The Prize is awarded to active scientists of any nationality. Each scientist may submit their own application, either individually or jointly with up to two colleagues who contributed to the same research. The application must clearly outline their significant contribution to research in the field of "Innovative Methods for Early Diagnosis or Preventive Medicine" and must also include a translational research project to further develop their work, to be

conducted in collaboration with one or more public or private research institutions in Lombardy.

5. The Prize is awarded by the President of the Region during the Research Day, with the presentation of a certificate stating the motivation for the award.
6. The winner must collect the Prize in person by attending the award ceremony, which may include additional public dissemination events, including scientific discussions.
7. The total Prize amount is €1 million, with 30% allocated to the winning scientist(s) and 70% dedicated to supporting the translational research project associated with the application.

## **Article 2**

### **(Application Process and Related Research Project)**

1. Following the award of the Prize, the winner and the identified Lombardy-based research institutions must define and submit a complete research project, including objectives, description of planned activities, timeline, budget allocation, project team composition, and expected outcomes to enhance knowledge and understanding within the award theme. The project execution phase must have a maximum duration of two years.
2. The research institutions cannot, either directly or indirectly, use the Prize funds for commercial activities; they must allocate them exclusively to their non-economic institutional research activities. They must also commit to widely disseminating the research results through conferences, publications, open-access databases, or free or open-source software.
3. The research project, as described in paragraph 1, must be submitted to Lombardy Region for approval, which will verify compliance with the provisions of this resolution and the appropriateness of timeframes and costs relative to the proposed activities. Upon approval, Lombardy Region will formally commit and allocate the financial resources to the designated research institutions.
4. Upon project completion, the winner and the collaborating research institutions must submit a technical-scientific report to Lombardy Region detailing the research outcomes, the use of allocated funds, achieved results, and the modes of dissemination to the broader scientific community.

## **Article 3**

### **(The Jury)**

1. The winner is selected by an international Selection Jury, which operates as an extraordinary and temporary body.
2. The Jury consists of 15 members, identified through the Scopus database ([www.scopus.com](http://www.scopus.com)), which provides a comprehensive and curated index of abstracts, citations, and academic research, allowing users to access reliable research, identify experts, and obtain analytics for research strategy decisions.

3. Jury members are selected from among those affiliated with the most relevant thematic areas connected to the Prize theme, specifically: Biomedical Research, Clinical Medicine, Biology, Chemistry, ICT, and Engineering.
4. Members of the Jury are those with the highest h-index in the aforementioned areas, as identified in Scopus. At least 10 members must be affiliated with Italian research institutions, regardless of nationality.

#### **Article 4**

##### **Submission of Applications**

1. Applications may be submitted by any scientist of any nationality with a significant scientific track record, as evidenced by an h-index of at least 50. In joint applications, at least one scientist must meet the h-index requirement.
2. The application dossier must include the following sections:
  - a. Section A: Candidate Profile
    - i. Full curriculum vitae, including publications, patents, or relevant research outcomes
    - ii. Summary of the candidate's contribution to the scientific landscape
    - iii. Retrospective analysis of the added value and potential applications of their research
    - iv. Description of the discoveries (if relevant) carried out by the authors during their research activities, along with suitable references, experimental evidence and impact
  - b. Section B: Translational Research Project
    - i. Objectives, methodology, and timeline
    - ii. Collaboration with one or more research institutions in Lombardy
    - iii. Initial (budgetary) plan of the expected expenses (for what concern the 700k€ assigned to the project)
    - iv. Key performance indicators (KPIs) to evaluate project progress and impact
  - c. Section C: Endorsement letter(s)
    - i. At least one endorsement letter written by well recognized colleagues, which explicitly refers to the impact of the research contribution provided by the candidate(s) and to the prospects for future translational impact

## **Article 5**

### **Evaluation Criteria for Applications**

1. The "Lombardy is Research" Prize is awarded to candidates who have distinguished themselves in scientific research within the theme selected for the 2025 edition and who have made an innovative contribution to the advancement of scientific knowledge. Research with a quantifiable impact within the specific topics outlined in Article 1, paragraph 2, will be considered.
2. Only original scientific contributions of high innovative value and scientific—and where applicable—economic or social impact will be considered. To ensure an objective and comparative evaluation of applications, the following selection and evaluation criteria will be used:
  - a. Candidate Profile: Significance of the contribution in the field of Life Sciences, originality; impact on the scientific community, and potential for advancing the state of the art.
  - b. Translational Research Project: Degree of innovation and transferability of the research into practical solutions; project quality, technical/scientific capabilities of the involved research institutions.
3. The elements outlined in paragraph 2 must be highlighted in the application justification and will be evaluated comparatively by the Jury, which will select the winner through a voting process.
4. The winner, upon receiving notification of the award, must formally accept the recognition.
5. The awarding process will be completed by November 8th, 2025, during the Research Day celebrated by the Lombardy Region.

## **Article 6**

### **Processing of Personal Data**

1. Lombardy Region, within the scope of the award process, provides a dedicated notice for the processing of personal data under Articles 13 and 14 of the EU General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR) 2016/679, as set out in Annex B to the resolution establishing the Prize.

## **Article 7**

### **Publication, Information, and Contacts**

1. A complete copy of this Regulation is published in the Official Bulletin of Lombardy Region and on the Open Innovation platform.
2. Adequate dissemination and promotional actions will be undertaken through international channels, as well as through the Lombardy Delegation to the EU Commission in Brussels.
3. Any information regarding this Regulation can be requested via email at [premioricerca@regione.lombardia.it](mailto:premioricerca@regione.lombardia.it).