

Committee of Convention 108

Stefano Rodotà Data Protection Award 2022

Competition rules

Article 1 – Purpose of the competition

The Committee of Convention 108 of the Council of Europe (the Organiser) shall hold a competition whose purpose shall be to highlight ground-breaking research on data protection.

The prize shall be awarded in memory of the leading Italian law Professor and politician, Stefano Rodotà, who worked throughout his life to promote fundamental rights, particularly for the development and implementation of the right to data protection in Europe, leaving an indelible mark on the framing of European policy in this field.

Article 2 – Entry requirements

The competition shall reward original and ground-breaking academic research, studies and articles on data protection, helping to improve current understanding of a new or emerging question, to stimulate debate in the expert community or possibly to devise new policies.

The prize rewards the best research, articles or publications, of academic nature (notably written on the basis of a thesis or master thesis produced by the author to obtaining a State recognised diploma) published or finalised in 2021 by young researchers (less than 40 years old at the date of application) and relating to data protection in two different categories.

As from the 2022 edition, the Stefano Rodotà Award will be granted in the two following categories:

- a first category for best PhD thesis published or finalised in 2021;
- a second category for other research, articles or publications, of academic nature, (including master thesis produced by the author to obtaining a State recognised diploma).

Candidate students and researchers shall be nationals of the countries participating in the work of the Committee of Convention 108 (members and observers).

Academic research, studies and articles which are submitted to journals and publishers for publication shall not be accepted to the competition when these journals and publishers require the exclusive submission of these research, studies and articles.

Academic research, studies and articles shall be freely accessible from the time of the announcement of prize-winners.

Applications shall be submitted in English or French.

Article 3 – Eligibility criteria

The organiser reserves the right to declare null and void any application that is improper, incomplete, illegible or contains false personal details.

Any text or image that is reproduced, even imperfectly, without the appropriate reference to the original, shall be viewed as a plagiarism. Plagiarism is strictly prohibited and shall result in exclusion from the competition if detected.

Article 4 – Procedure for taking part in the competition

Registration shall be open until midnight on 30 November 2021. Applications received after this date shall not be considered.

Projects shall be submitted by means of the application form available on the EasyChair website.

Applications must contain:

- the application form, duly filled;
- a summary of the work of no more than 1500 words;
- if necessary, appended documents.

Article 5 – Nature of the prize and conduct of the competition

The project selected by the judging panel shall be awarded the Stefano Rodotà Prize for the two different categories mentioned under Article 2. The judging panel reserves itself the right to award up to three special mentions if it considers that other projects deserve to be put forward.

The prize-winning projects shall be granted official recognition by the members of Committee of Convention 108 and benefit from a higher profile.

The participants shall be informed that their application has been duly received as soon as possible.

The prize-winners shall be notified of the judging panel's decision in January.

The prize-winning projects shall be unveiled officially on Data Protection Day, 28 January 2022. The winners, namely the persons receiving the Stefano Rodotà Prize, shall be invited to present their work at the Plenary session of the Committee of Convention 108 to be held from 15th to 17th of June 2022. Travel and accommodation costs shall, where necessary, be covered by the Organiser (according to the applicable rules).

The winners will be informed that they may be photographed, interviewed or filmed during this event.

The Organiser reserves the right to modify or cancel this competition and may not be held liable in such circumstances.

Article 6 - The judging panel

The judging panel shall be made up of the Chair of the Committee of Convention 108 and the members of its Bureau, except for members in a potential situation of conflict of interest, who shall stand down forthwith.

The organisation of the work and the deliberations of the judging panel shall be determined entirely independently by its members.

The deliberations made by the judging panel shall be always kept confidential.

The judging panel may seek the assistance of an expert if it considers that it does not possess the necessary skills to understand and assess a particular research project. Such experts shall perform their duties confidentially and shall not have any interest of any nature that is liable to affect their judgment.

Article 7 – Criteria for selecting prize-winner(s)

The secretariat of the judging panel shall examine the eligibility criteria.

Selected projects shall be forwarded to the judging panel for assessment.

The judging panel may base its assessment on the following criteria:

- relevance of the subject;
- originality and ground-breaking nature of the subject;
- contribution to improving the current understanding in the field;
- potential community impact;
- research methods;
- scientific qualities.

Article 8 – Choice of the prize-winner(s) by the judging panel

The panel members shall draw up a shortlist of 10 candidates.

The members shall select up to four applications for each of the categories mentioned under Article 2 following their order of preference among the 10 shortlisted applications, based on a points system.

Each member of the jury will give giving 4 points to the paper considered the best, 3 points to the second, 2 points to the third and 1 to the fourth.

If a candidate withdraws, the judging panel may conduct another selection process based on the shortlisted candidatures that have not been chosen.

After the ballots have been counted, the projects shall be ranked by order of points. In the event of equal points, a simple majority vote shall be held to separate the projects. Where necessary, the Chair shall have the deciding vote.

The applications gathering the majority of points shall be awarded the Stefano Rodotà Prize in their respective category. The judging panel reserves the right to also award special mentions.

Article 9 – Data protection

The personal data of the candidates are collected by the Organiser for the purpose of processing their participation in the competition.

Personal data processed in the context of the applications submitted through EasyChair are subject to EasyChair's privacy policy (<https://easychair.org/privacy>).

Candidates shall have a right of access, rectification and deletion for all data concerning them. These rights can be exercised by submitting a request electronically to datacommissioner@coe.int

Data shall be kept for one year.

Prize-winners accept that their names, first names and photos will be used and disseminated by the Organiser when publicising and promoting the Stefano Rodotà Prize. Any other personal data included on the form shall not be disclosed to the public.

Article 10 – Intellectual property and guarantees

The candidates must be the authors of all the content that they defend in the context of the competition. They declare holding all the rights allowing them to fully enter undertakings under this competition.

The authors of the prize-winning projects shall authorise the Organiser to disseminate the title of the project, the summary and the main project provided by the candidate via any medium, particularly the Organiser's website or social media on Data Protection Day, 28 January 2022. In the case of prize-winning projects being published or in the publication process before the announcement of prize, the authors shall guarantee that they can be freely accessible on the internet and that the Organiser can disseminate the main projects via any medium, particularly its website or social media.