

APPROVED
by Order No. R-224 of 14 May 2024
of the Rector of Vilnius University

VILNIUS UNIVERSITY REGULATIONS OF COMPETITION FOR INCENTIVISING SIGNIFICANT CONTRIBUTIONS TO OPEN SCIENCE

CHAPTER I GENERAL PROVISIONS

1. The Vilnius University Regulations of Competition for Incentivising Significant Contributions to Open Science (hereinafter the ‘Regulations’) regulate the procedure for organising the competition for incentivising significant contributions to open science at Vilnius University (hereinafter the ‘Competition’), assessing the applications of participants, and awarding the winners.

2. The aim of the Competition is to motivate academic and non-academic staff of Vilnius University (hereinafter the ‘University’) as well as third cycle students to contribute to the development of open science, the implementation of its principles and the promotion of its ideas within the University and beyond. The Competition shall be held every academic year.

3. These Regulations have been prepared in accordance with the Vilnius University Open Science Policy Guidelines approved by Resolution of the Senate of the University No. SPN-12 of 22 February 2022 “On the Approval of the Vilnius University Open Science Policy Guidelines”, the Vilnius University Open Science Policy Guidelines Implementation Plan for 2023–2028 approved by Order of the Rector of the University No. R-221 of 6 June 2023 “On the Approval of the Vilnius University Open Science Policy Guidelines Implementation Plan for 2023–2028” (hereinafter the ‘Open Science Policy Guidelines Implementation Plan’), and other legal acts of the University.

CHAPTER II COMPETITION PARTICIPANTS

4. The Competition is open to all members of the academic and non-academic staff of the University, as well as third cycle students, who have made a significant contribution to the development of open science, the implementation of its principles and/or the promotion of its ideas during the ongoing academic year (September–August) (hereinafter the ‘significant contribution to open science’).

5. The following activities may be recognised as a significant contribution to open science after their assessment in accordance with the procedure set out in these Regulations:

5.1. implementation of the activities of the Open Science Policy Guidelines Implementation Plan with exceptionally good results;

5.2. making the outcomes of research (publications, data, software code, etc.) and pedagogical activities (textbooks, teaching materials, etc.) open, enhancing their transparency and ensuring their replicability;

5.3. adapting data handling practices of a unit and/or research group of the University to the implementation of “FAIR” (Findable, Accessible, Interoperable, Reusable) data principles (principles complying therewith ensures that the scientific research data is findable, accessible, interoperable and reusable) (hereafter the “FAIR” data principles”) and the management of data generated by scientific research activities in accordance with the “FAIR” data principles;

5.4. using publication and peer-review methods that implement open science principles;

5.5. involving the public in scientific research activities;

5.6. dissemination and promotion of open science ideas in society and the University community;

5.7. initiatives promoting the implementation of open science principles at the University;

5.8. sharing experience and good practice in the application of open science principles, providing assistance in the application of open science;

5.9. encouraging young researchers to apply open science principles in their research activities;

- 5.10. national and international cooperation in developing open science ideas and practices;
- 5.11. active participation in building an open and inclusive research community;
- 5.12. significant and measurable positive impact of open science initiatives on social, economic and environmental development;
- 5.13. this list shall be considered illustrative, and other achievements in the area of open science may also be assessed in the Competition.

CHAPTER III PROCEDURE FOR ORGANISING THE COMPETITION

6. The Competition shall be organised and run by the University Library, the Department for Research and Innovation of the Central Administration of the University, and the Communication and Marketing Division of the Central Administration of the University (hereinafter the ‘Organisers’).

7. Information about the Competition (hereinafter the ‘Call’) shall be published in June of each year on the University's website and other information channels chosen by the Organisers.

8. The Call shall detail the terms and conditions of the Competition:

- 8.1. a description of the essence of the Competition;
- 8.2. no more than three Competition categories (to be revised each academic year);
- 8.3. a link (reference) to these Regulations;
- 8.4. the period for admitting applications for the Competition (hereinafter the ‘Applications’) and information on where to submit them.

9. The Applications for the Competition, following the procedure indicated in the Call, may be submitted either by the University's employees and third cycle students themselves (hereinafter the ‘Participants’), or by the heads of the University's units where the nominated staff members work or the supervisors of the nominated third cycle students. In addition to individuals, an Application where a group of individuals is nominated for their collective contribution to open science may also be submitted.

10. By submitting an Application, the Participant(s) shall agree to participate in the Competition following the terms and conditions set out in these Regulations. By submitting an Application, the head who is nominating the Participant(s) shall confirm that they have received the consent of the nominated Participant(s) to take part in the Competition following the terms and conditions set out in these Regulations. The personal data shall be processed for the purposes of the Competition in accordance with the legal acts of the University and the Republic of Lithuania.

11. The Application shall detail the significant contribution of the Participant(s) to the development of open science, the implementation of its principles and/or the promotion of its ideas. Information justifying such contribution shall be submitted as an Annex to the Application.

12. After the expiration of the period for admitting Applications specified in the Call, the Applications shall be assessed following the principles of impartiality and confidentiality by the Commission for the Assessment of Applications of Participants in the University Competition for Incentivising Significant Contributions to Open Science (hereinafter the ‘Commission’), established by an order of the Pro-Rector for Research of the University. When establishing the Commission, a chairperson of the Commission shall be appointed and it shall be ensured that there are no conflicts of interest between the Participants and the members of the Commission (direct subordination, close relationship of consanguinity, joint scientific projects being carried out or carried out in the last two years, and publications published). If a conflict of interest arises during the assessment of an Application, the relevant member(s) of the Commission shall withdraw from the assessment of such Application and the decision shall be taken by the remaining members of the Commission.

13. The Commission shall group the Applications according to the categories indicated in the Call and shall select up to two winners in each of these categories according to the following criteria, taking into account their weighting in the final assessment:

- 13.1. the impact of the contribution on open science – 0.5 (50 per cent);
- 13.2. the innovativeness of the contribution – 0.25 (25 per cent);
- 13.3. the impact of the contribution on society and the environment – 0.25 (25 per cent).

14. The decision of the Commission shall be taken by a simple majority of votes of the participating members of the Commission and shall be recorded in the minutes, signed by all the members of the Commission who assessed the Applications. A Commission's meeting shall be considered legitimate if at least two-thirds of the members of the Commission are present. If the votes are split evenly, the chairperson of the Commission shall have the casting vote.

15. Members of the Commission shall not be additionally remunerated for their work in the Commission.

CHAPTER IV FINAL PROVISIONS

16. The winners of the Competition shall be awarded letters of appreciation from the University and prizes at an award ceremony during the series of events of the International Open Access Week.

17. The winners of the Competition shall not be eligible to participate in new Competitions organised under these Regulations for a period of two years from the date of receiving the award.
