

# Körber European Science Prize

## Guidelines

Since 1985, the Körber European Science Prize has been presented annually by the Körber-Stiftung, located in Hamburg, Germany. Initiated by the industrialist and founder Kurt A. Körber (1909 – 1992), the Körber Prize is one of the most important science prizes awarded in Europe and is currently endowed with € 1,000,000.

The following guidelines clarify the intentions pursued by the Körber Prize and the kind of scientist sought as a prize winner. The guidelines serve as an orientation for the members of the Committees of the Körber Prize, for third-party scientists and institutions involved in the nomination process, as well as for the public.

### 1 Selection criteria for the Körber Prize

- 1.1 Each year, the Körber Prize is awarded to a distinguished scientist actively conducting research in the fields of either Life Sciences or Physical Sciences (including Computational Sciences) in Europe. The prize alternates between these two fields annually.
- 1.2 The Körber Prize is a European promotional prize. It is awarded to scientists working in Europe in recognition of their scientific achievements and their forward-looking research. This also includes researchers who do not originally come from a European country, but whose research is based here.
- 1.3 Candidates/prize winners should be regarded as leading researchers in their fields. They should have attracted considerable attention worldwide with their research accomplishments.
- 1.4 Scientific excellence takes top priority in the selection criteria. Candidates/prize winners must have made a distinctive breakthrough in their field of research.
- 1.5 The Candidates'/prize winners' research must display potential for application.
- 1.6 Candidates/prize winners should be active scientists with clear potential for further development. Their scientific projects should show outstanding future promise.
- 1.7 There should be evidence that the candidates/prizewinners are working on innovative research projects that could be significantly advanced with the funds of the Körber Prize within a time scale of three to five years.
- 1.8 Candidates/prize winners should be capable of arousing public interest. They should be able to communicate their work to a scientifically interested public.

## **2 Rights and responsibilities of the prize winners**

- 2.1 The Körber Prize is endowed with € 1,000,000. The prize winner is responsible for deciding on the use of the prize money. He or she is accountable only to the Körber-Stiftung.
- 2.2 The prize winner must use 85% (€ 850,000) of the prize money for research purposes within a period of three to five years. The respective research projects must be located in a European country.
- 2.3 The prize winner may spend 10% of the prize money (€ 100,000) at his or her own discretion.
- 2.4 The Körber-Stiftung aims to foster the dialogue between science and society. Hence, 5% of the prize money (€ 50,000) must be spent on science communication and public outreach. The organisation of outreach activities is the responsibility of the prize winner and should be coordinated with the Körber-Stiftung.
- 2.5 The prize winner is expected to present his or her research to the public by means of a lecture held in Hamburg.

## **3 Nomination procedure and selection of prize winners**

- 3.1 Nominations may be made by members of the respective Search Committee, the Trustee Committee, and eligible third-party European research institutions. Submitted nominations are compiled in a longlist. The respective Search Committee alone determines which candidates progress through the further selection rounds.
- 3.2 The members of the respective Search Committee can nominate worthy candidates from any European country. They are encouraged to consider both gender balance and geographical variety in their nominations, especially with regard to candidates outside their own geographical area.
- 3.3 The respective Search Committee compiles a short-list of about eight candidates from the long-list, typically by means of an online voting. Search Committee members should provide names of potential referees for each short-listed candidate.
- 3.4 The Körber-Stiftung contacts the short-listed candidates, requesting the submission of their CV and a research proposal. The Körber-Stiftung also contacts the referees. Referees are asked to provide an assessment of the candidates and their research proposal. At least two reviews are required for each candidate.
- 3.5 After the reviews have been received, the respective Search Committee selects and ranks the short-listed candidates (generally three), typically in an online meeting. A presentation of each candidate is to be made by a member of the Search Committee.
- 3.6 The chairperson of the respective Search Committee provides the Trustee Committee with a summary report on the recommended candidates, explaining the reasons for their choice and ranking.
- 3.7 On the basis of the recommendations of the Search Committee, the Trustee Committee selects the prize winner from the shortlist. The Trustee Committee convenes in the Spring of each year, typically in an online meeting.