

KÖRBER EUROPEAN SCIENCE PRIZE

Guidelines for the awarding

The Körber European Science Prize has been presented annually by the Körber-Stiftung, located in Hamburg/Germany, since 1985. The initiator of the prize was the industrialist and founder Kurt A. Körber (1909 – 1992). In terms of its endowment, the Körber Prize is one of the most important science prizes presented in Europe. It is currently endowed with 1.000.000 euros.

The following guidelines are intended to indicate the intentions pursued by the Körber Prize and the kind of scientist sought as a prize winner. The guidelines may serve as orientation for the members of the Search Committees of the Körber Prize and for third-party scientists and institutions involved in the search for prize winners as well as for the public.

1 Selection criteria for the Körber Prize

- 1.1 Every year, the Körber Prize is given to scientists working in Europe *in the fields of life sciences and physical sciences*. The prize is awarded alternately in these two fields. It is given to individuals.
- 1.2 The Körber Prize is a *European promotional prize*. The prize is awarded to scientists working in Europe in recognition of their achieved breakthrough and their (potential) forward-looking research work. This also includes researchers who do not come from a European country, but whose main area of activity is based here.
- 1.3 The prize candidates/winners should be leading researchers in their respective fields.
- 1.4 Scientific excellence must have top priority. He or she has recently made an outstanding, particular, distinctive breakthrough achievement in fundamental or experimental science.
- 1.5 The prize candidates/winners' research projects must possess *application potential*.
- 1.6 Prize winners should only be fully active scientists with clear potential for *further development*. They must be at the height of their productivity and creativity. Their scientific projects should show outstanding future promise.
- 1.7 There should be evidence that the prize candidates/winners are working on *innovative research programs* that could be significantly advanced within the time scale and with the funds of the Körber Prize.
- 1.8 The prize candidates/winners' research work must be capable of arousing *public interest* and possess great development potential, but it needs not be mainstream research.

2 Rights and responsibilities of the recipients

- 2.1 The Körber Prize is currently endowed with 1.000.000 euros. The prize winner can use ten percent of the prize money for his or her own personal purposes. The prize winner is solely responsible for deciding on the use of the prize money and is accountable only to the Körber-Stiftung.
- 2.2 The Körber-Stiftung aims to foster the dialogue between science and society. Hence five percent of the prize money (50.000 euros) are dedicated to activities of science communication and public outreach. The organisation of these activities is the responsibility of the winner and should be coordinated with the Körber-Stiftung, which provides its expertise in this field.
- 2.2 The Körber Prize money is to be used by the winner anywhere in Europe to the benefit of her/his research within the following *three to five years*.
- 2.3 The prize winner is expected to present her/his accomplishments and research results to the public at a *Körber Lecture* in Hamburg.

3 Nomination procedure and selection of candidates

- 3.1 The Körber Prize is given by the Trustee Committee in cooperation with the two Search Committees (for physical sciences and for life sciences). The relationship between the bodies is fixed in the statutes of the Körber European Science Prize.
- 3.2 Suggestions for the Körber European Science Prize can only be made by the members of the Trustee Committee and the members of the relevant Search Committee (each year alternating between physical sciences and life sciences). The relevant Search Committee alone determines which candidates are selected and passed on to the Trustee Committee for the final decision.
- 3.3 The members of the relevant Search Committee should focus on finding candidates not only from their own geographical area, and regardless of research area. Members are encouraged to nominate worthy candidates from any European country.
- 3.4 For all nominations at this stage, there should be a short report (max. two pages). This report should refer to the biography of the scientist, to the exceptional aspects of her/his research work and to her/his current activities. It must become clear for which specific achievement the prize should go to the respective candidate. As a general rule, reviewers should not come from the same institution as the candidate and, where possible, at least one reviewer should come from a country other than that of the candidate, preferably the USA.
- 3.5 The long list of prize candidates has to be fixed at the end of the discussion in the Search Committee usually by means of an online voting. It should as a general rule contain not more than eight names. At the same time the members of the Search Committee should list names of potential reviewers.

- 3.6 The Körper staff contacts the candidates on the long list for a full application. In a second step they contact the reviewers to start the evaluation. At least two reviews are needed for every candidate.
- 3.7 After the reviews have come in, a meeting of the Search Committee is held to select and rank the selected candidates (generally three). There should be a short presentation of every candidate at this meeting. The presentation will be done (in arrangement with the chairman) by a member of the Search Committee.
- 3.8 The chairman of the Search Committee provides for the Trustee Committee a summary report, presented also in person, of how and preferably why these candidates were chosen and ranked.
- 3.9 The final decision for the prize winner is made in the Trustee Committee.

www.koerber-prize.org

(May 2019)