



2014 EUROPEAN COURT OF AUDITORS AWARD

– MASSIMO VARI –

Presentation

In accordance with its mission and values, the European Court of Auditors (ECA) is committed to being at the forefront in developing public sector auditing, both in the EU and worldwide. The ECA has already been the subject of a number of publications of an empirical or scientific nature and it is keen to develop further active links with the scientific community.

For this reason the ECA has established in 2010 the “**European Court of Auditors Award**” for academic research linked to public audit and to the ECA’s mission and values, in order to provide an incentive and recognition for research on public audit related issues.

Each edition will pay tribute to a person who has contributed through their work and example to the reputation of the ECA as a European institution at the forefront of the development of public auditing.

The third edition of the ECA Award will pay tribute to the memory of **Massimo Vari**, former Member of the ECA, who has contributed greatly to the development of the ECA as the external auditor of the EU finances during his office as a Member of the institution between 2006 and 2011. His sudden and untimely death in June 2013 was a great loss of a highly appreciated former colleague. **Mr Vari** was held in very high esteem in his country, as a former judge of the Constitutional Court of Italy (1993 – 2002), Section President responsible for coordinating the regional audit sections at the Italian Court of Auditors (2002 – 2006) and undersecretary of Economic Development of the Italian government between 2011 and 2013.

The **2014 European Court of Auditors Award –Massimo Vari**” will be governed by the following rules:



REGULATION ON THE 2014 EUROPEAN COURT OF AUDITORS AWARD

1. Subject

The award is addressed to European academics for their theses in the fields of **theoretical and/or empirical studies related to public sector auditing, in particular within a European Union context.**

This covers, for example: audit methods and standards; financial, compliance and performance audit; audit of the EU finances;; reporting methods; organizational and management aspects; internal audit and control; public accountability; single audit audit ethics; evaluation and impact assessment; relations between the SAIs and the national parliaments or EU governance.

2. Eligibility

The award is open to all postgraduates, who have written a Master's thesis or a PhD thesis. The viva examination must have taken place on or after 1st January 2011. Candidates eligible for applying for this ECA Award are to be nationals of the European Union or to have completed a thesis at a university of the European Union. The Master's or PhD thesis should not have been submitted for any previous edition of the ECA awards.

3. Applications

Candidates shall submit:

1. a PDF copy of their thesis;
2. a short summary (maximum 5 000 words) of the thesis;
3. a justification of why they consider the thesis to be relevant for the award (maximum 1 000 words);
4. a brief letter of recommendation from a professor at the university to which the thesis was submitted. This reference should set out, in not more than 2 000 words, the relevance of the thesis submitted for the award;
5. their curriculum vitae.



The thesis itself (1) may be in any of the official languages of the European Union, but all other supporting documentation referred to above (2 to 5) should be submitted in either English or French. The above documents, along with the checklist, should be submitted by email in PDF format.

In addition to the documents presented with the application, the selection panel may request further information from applicants.

By submitting the thesis, the applicant gives the ECA the right to publish the thesis on its website in the event of the thesis being selected for the award. For all other purposes, the copyright remains with the successful applicant.

4. Selection process

The ECA will submit the applications to a selection panel.

The selection panel for the “2014 European Court of Auditors Award – Massimo Vari” will be composed of three experts from public audit organisations, current or former Members of the European Court of Auditors and/or university professors from EU Member States.

The selection panel will independently assess the applications, identify the thesis, which is considered to merit the award and provide a brief justification of their choice.

The selection panel may propose not to confer the award if the submitted theses do not meet an outstanding level of quality. It may also confer the award jointly and *ex aequo* to two applicants.

The decision of the selection panel on the award winner shall be final and may not be challenged in the courts.

The ECA will provide the secretariat of the selection panel. The President of ECA may chair the selection panel’s meetings without the right to vote.



5. Criteria

The fundamental criteria used in the assessment process shall be the originality, the innovative qualities, the significance and the overall quality of the applicant's contribution to the respective theme at the current time.

6. Awards ceremony

Following a formal decision by the Court taking note of the selection panel's decision, the winner(s) will be invited to a public ceremony at the ECA to receive the award and to deliver a lecture of up to 45 minutes. This will take place in Luxembourg in spring 2015, on a date to be established by the ECA. The travel expenses of the winner will be covered by the ECA

By accepting the award, the winner(s) agree(s) that all future publications of the thesis or of any part of the thesis shall make reference to the "2014 European Court of Auditors Award – Massimo Vari" and shall mention the year the award was conferred.

7. Award's prize

The winner(s) will receive from the ECA a medal, an award certificate and a prize of 5.000 euros.

8. Deadline

Applications shall be submitted with all documentation referred to under 3 - thesis and supporting documentation – by 30 November 2014 and shall be addressed to:

eca-award@eca.europa.eu

Applications arriving after this date at the ECA will not be admitted for the award selection procedure.