



EUROPEAN
COURT
OF AUDITORS

2022 EUROPEAN COURT OF AUDITORS AWARDS

IN HONOUR OF JOÃO FIGUEIREDO

Presentation

In accordance with its mission and values, the European Court of Auditors (ECA), the EU's independent external auditor, is committed to being at the forefront in developing public sector auditing, both in the EU and worldwide. The ECA is keen to further develop active links with the academic community and thus benefit from the wealth of knowledge which scholars and researchers from all disciplines are creating through their intellectual work on prospects and challenges relating to public spending, auditing and financial accountability in the European Union.

Audit institutions need to develop and enhance their ability to analyse change, to address the related risks and challenges and to continuously adapt their audit methods and approaches. To do so, it is essential for the ECA to develop a mutually beneficial relationship with academic researchers. In other terms, the audit profession must advance hand-in-hand with research.

With this goal in mind, the ECA established the biennial 'European Court of Auditors Awards' in 2010, with the aim of providing both an incentive and recognition for original research on accountability issues in public audit.

The 2022 ECA Awards are named after someone who has actively contributed to the ECA's reputation as an EU institution. This, the seventh edition of the Awards, pays tribute to the memory of João Figueiredo (1955-2021), who served as the Portuguese ECA Member from October 2016 until his sudden death on 30 June 2021.

The 2022 European Court of Auditors Awards in honour of João Figueiredo will be subject to the following rules:

1. Subject

The ECA Awards are aimed at academics and researchers in the EU conducting theoretical or empirical studies on EU public sector auditing and accountability.

The ECA Awards consist of:

- a **'Publication Award'** for peer-reviewed academic publications (articles and books).
- a **'Thesis Award'** for a Master's or PhD thesis.

The 2022 ECA Awards focus on a topic closely linked to the ECA's mission and work: **'Accountability gaps in the European Union'**. Accountability is a vital part of our democratic systems and essential for citizens' trust in the EU and its finances. The mission of the ECA, as the EU's independent external auditor, is to hold to account the various institutions and bodies managing EU funds and implementing EU policies.

In its reports, the ECA has constantly underlined the numerous accountability gaps in the EU's institutional and financial set-up. The ECA's 2021-2025 strategy includes the specific objective of 'Improving accountability, transparency and audit arrangements across all types of EU action' (Goal 1). To achieve this objective, the ECA aims to identify audit and accountability gaps in the EU's rapidly changing institutional and financial set-up, as well as overlaps and duplication in audit activities.

Over the last 15 years, the EU has been confronted with an unprecedented series of crises: the 2007-2008 economic and financial crisis, the 2009 sovereign debt crisis, the 2015 migration crisis, the UK's withdrawal from the EU in 2020, the public health and economic crisis due to the global COVID-19 pandemic, and most recently the ongoing war in Ukraine. Most of these crises hit the EU in areas in which its treaty-based powers were limited, such as economic and fiscal policy, supervision of the financial sector, immigration and citizenship, public health, and defence and security. Despite its limited institutional capabilities, the EU has proven to be resilient and resourceful: flexible arrangements, unprecedented policy and fiscal responses, ad hoc mechanisms and new intergovernmental structures have allowed it to overcome many of these challenges.

A number of very fast-moving developments resulting from the EU's response to these crises have added even greater complexity to the EU's institutional and financial set-up, and raised new questions about accountability. The EU's institutional and financial set-up has never been more complex and diverse, making the need to identify and close accountability gaps more urgent than ever. By selecting 'accountability gaps in

the EU' as the topic for the 2022 Awards, the ECA is calling on scholars and researchers in the EU from all disciplines to contribute to this shared reflection.

2. Awards

The two ECA Award winners will each receive an award certificate, a medal and a prize of €5 000.

3. Eligibility

The 'Publication Award' is open to researchers and scholars, for a peer-reviewed publication (article in an academic journal or book) which must have been published on or after 1 January 2017.

The 'Thesis Award' is open to postgraduate candidates who successfully completed a Master's or a PhD programme on or after 1 January 2017.

To be eligible to apply for one of the ECA Awards, candidates must be EU nationals. Non-EU nationals are only eligible to apply if they currently work at or completed their thesis at a university in the EU.

4. Applications

Candidates must submit the following by email as PDF files:

- (a) the application form;
- (b) a copy of their publication (book, article) or thesis;
- (c) a short summary (maximum 3000 words) of their publication or thesis, outlining its methodology, findings and main conclusions;
- (d) an explanation of why they consider the publication or thesis to be relevant to the topic of 'Accountability gaps in the European Union' (maximum 1000 words);
- (e) their curriculum vitae.

The publication or thesis itself (see item (b) above) may be in any of the EU's official languages, but all other supporting documentation must be submitted in either English or French.

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

5. Selection process

The ECA will submit the applications to a selection panel.

The selection panel will be composed of experts in fields related to public audit and the specific Award theme, chosen among ECA Members and senior management, public institutions and academia. An ECA Member will chair the selection panel meetings.

The selection panel will assess the applications independently, decide which publication and thesis merit the award and briefly justify their choice.

The selection panel may confer an award jointly and *ex aequo* to two applicants. It may also decide not to confer an award if none of the applications submitted is of outstanding quality.

In addition, the selection panel may also give a special mention to deserving applications other than the successful ones.

The selection panel's decisions are final and may not be challenged in court.

The ECA's Secretariat-General will serve as the secretariat of the selection panel.

6. Criteria

The selection panel will assess the applications in terms of the overall quality and originality of the applicant's contribution, and of its relevance to the topic of 'Accountability gaps in the European Union'.

7. Award ceremony

The winners will be invited to a ceremony at the ECA to receive their awards. They may be invited to deliver a lecture of up to 30 minutes at the ceremony, which will take place in Luxembourg in December 2022, on a date to be announced by the ECA. The ECA will cover their travel expenses.

8. Deadline

Applications must be submitted electronically by **7 November 2022**, to:

Eca-award@eca.europa.eu

Applications received after this date will not be accepted.

Annex

Data Protection – Applicants’ Specific Privacy Statement

This privacy statement concerns the European Court of Auditors’ (ECA) processing of personal data for the attribution of the ECA Awards for research on public sector auditing.

The manner in which the ECA processes and protects your personal data is described below.

By participating to this edition of the ECA Awards, you give your consent to the processing of your data by the ECA as described in this statement.

Who is responsible for handling your data?

Data processing operations are under the responsibility of the Director of the ECA Directorate of Information, Workplace and Innovation (DIWI).

Why do we collect your data?

The DIWI team in charge of the organisation of the ECA Awards event will use the data for processing the submissions to the selection panel composed of experts in the fields related to public audit and the specific Awards theme. The selection panel will examine the submissions, select the admissible applicants, and determine the winner(s).

The DOP team will then invite the winner(s) to participate in the Awards ceremony.

The results will be published on the ECA website and social media.

Your personal data will not be processed for any purpose other than that for which it has been collected.

What are the rules governing the use of your data?

[Regulation \(EU\) 2018/1725](#) of the European Parliament and of the Council of 23 October 2018 on the protection of natural persons with regard to the processing of personal data by the Union institutions, bodies, offices and agencies and on the free movement of such data is the legal framework for the processing of personal data within the Court.

The legal basis for the processing of your personal data is the statement that you have given your free consent. You have the right to withdraw your consent at any time.

What personal data do we collect?

The following categories of data will be collected: Full name, address, phone number, nationality, date of birth, and CV; additionally photos and bank details for the award winner(s).

Who has access to your data and to whom will your data be disclosed?

The DIWI team, the members of the selection panel have access to all applicants' data according to the "need to know" principle.

The winner(s) name and photos taken during the ceremony will be published on the ECA website and various social media. The accounting department will process bank details and proof of travel expenses for payment of prize and reimbursement of travel expenses.

Your personal data may be transferred to other recipients: the ECA's Legal Service, if legal advice is required, and to the European Ombudsman, the European Data Protection Supervisor and the ECA Data Protection Officer if you lodge a complaint.

How do we safeguard against possible misuse of or unauthorised access to your data?

Data sets are stored securely in the ECA's data centre in Luxembourg, and are therefore covered by the numerous measures taken to protect the availability, integrity and confidentiality of the institution's electronic assets.

Access to personal data is restricted to a specific user group. Access rights are granted on a "need to know" basis, taking account of the role, post and responsibilities of the user concerned. These rights are continually updated as staff assignments change.

The ECA's Secretary-General has overall responsibility for implementation of the rules on access rights and compliance with the rules on data protection, but has delegated responsibility in these areas to different entities. The Court has an information security policy, and an Information Security Officer who ensures that the policy is implemented correctly and that the related checks are tested for efficiency.

How long do we keep your data?

Your personal data will be retained for 3 months after the procedure end and for an indefinite period for the award winner(s). Bank details and proof of travel expenses for the award winner(s) will be retained for 10 years.

What are your rights?

Your rights in respect of your personal data are set out in Articles 17 to 24 of Regulation (EU) 2018/1725.

You have the right to access your personal data and to have them rectified without undue delay if it is inaccurate or incomplete.

Under certain conditions, you have the right to ask us to erase your personal data or to restrict its use. Where applicable, you have the right to object to the processing of your personal data, at any time, on grounds relating to your particular situation, and the right to data portability.

We will consider your request, take a decision and communicate it to you without undue delay and in any event within one month of receipt of the request. This period may be extended by two further months where necessary.

You can exercise your rights by contacting the data controller, using the contact information given below.

Who should you contact if you have a query or complaint?

The first point of contact is the data controller at ECA-award@eca.europa.eu.

You may contact at any time the ECA's Data Protection Officer (ECA-Data-Protection@eca.europa.eu) if you have any concerns/complaints about the processing of your personal data.

European Court of Auditors

Data Protection Officer

12, rue Alcide De Gasperi

1615 Luxembourg

LUXEMBOURG

You have the right to lodge a complaint, at any time, with the European Data Protection Supervisor (edps@edps.europa.eu) concerning the processing of your personal data.
