



Call for Applications

Deadline 15 March 2027

Chairs of the Jury:

Prof. Dr. Stefania Romenti, Prof. Dr. Ralph Tench

In order to stimulate the academic discussion and build the body of knowledge in public relations and communication management across Europe, the European Public Relations Education and Research Association (EUPRERA) awards a bi-annual prize for excellent doctoral dissertation **in any language**. The call is open to any student studying public relations in Europe, regardless of the location.

www.euprera.org/phd-award

Aim

The award honours academic excellence in the fields of public relations and communication management.

Rewards

The winner will receive a certificate, naming their dissertation best of class in Europe. The winner will also be invited to receive the award at the EUPRERA Annual Congress, the main gathering for public relations scholars in Europe. Travel expenses and accommodation will be paid (up to € 500).

The winner will be recognised as a leading expert in public relations, corporate communication or communication management.

Conditions

All doctoral dissertations **in any language from all countries** are eligible for submission, provided they have been formally approved with a formal examination at the candidate's university **within the last 24 months before the submission deadline (March 2025 – March 2027)**, before the submission deadline. Nominations that fall outside this period will not be taken into consideration.

Authors should submit their dissertation in the original version as approved by their committees or supervisors plus a paper formatted in journal style. Award applicants are, therefore, asked to condense their theses/dissertations into a scholarly paper, following the manuscript requirements of the *Journal of Communication Management* (<https://www.emerald.com/jcom>).

Requirements

- The scholarly paper must be written in English.
- The paper must be carefully edited to conceal the identities of the author, his/her institutional affiliations, and the thesis/dissertation advisor, so as to preserve the objectivity of the judging process.
- The paper must include an abstract of no more than 150 words and follow the template of the *Journal of Communication Management* (<https://www.emerald.com/jcom>).
- The length of the paper should be between 2000 and 5000 words including references, figures and tables.
- The submission should include four emailed PDF files. The maximum size of any single PDF is 9.5 MB; appropriate software should be used to reduce file sizes if the original files exceed this limit (see link on www.euprera.org). The three files are:
 - a) The abstract/ paper, as described above.
 - b) The full dissertation in the original language.
 - c) An accompanying cover letter to the award chair(s) indicating (1) current contact information and affiliation of the author, (2) dissertation manuscript title, (3) date of thesis/dissertation defence, (4) university where dissertation was defended and degree awarded, (5) contact information for dissertation advisor, (6) letter from the University or supervisor, (7) a copy of the certificate of the formal examination.
- Except for applicants coming from soft-currency countries (see the list on www.euprera.org/membership), the proof of payment of € 30,00 as entry fee. Accepted payment methods:

Bank transfer

Bank: KBC Bank NV, Havenlaan 2, 1080 Brussels, Belgium

Branch: KBC Brussels Berchem, Chaussée de Gand 1179, 1082 Berchem Ste Agathe, Belgium

IBAN: BE79446021174133 - BIC/SWIFT: KREDBEBB

Ref.: SURNAME, PhD award application

PayPal

Addressee: treasurer@euprera.org

Award applicants are requested not to submit materials without first ensuring they comply with all submission requirements. Submissions that fail to conform to the requirements will be automatically disqualified and the entry fee won't be reimbursed.

Cumulative dissertations (cumulation of already published articles) can be submitted. In case of more authors of the articles, the candidate must submit a letter of the supervisor and the candidate with a detailed explanation about each contribution to the work.

Jury

The chairs of the award jury will nominate a suitable number of additional members after the submission deadline, according to the necessities of the process (number of submissions and languages involved). The overall number of jury members will not exceed five. All jury members are professors or associate professors at universities (including emeriti professors) who are eligible to supervise PhD theses themselves. The chairs of the jury are free to invite potential jury members before the submission deadline.

Each candidate is ranked by at least two members of the jury, after which the rankings are compared and discussed and a winner is selected by discussion and consensus. To avoid conflicts of interest, those who judge the specific paper may not be a supervisor or examiner or otherwise involved of the candidate. The contact chair of the jury will be responsible for distributing the papers. The chairs will make the final decision about the winner. The nominations, rankings and discussions will be kept confidential within the jury.

Criteria

The jury will judge each doctoral dissertation on the following criteria:

- Theoretical coherence and quality
- Degree of innovation for theory and/or practice
- Methodological appropriateness
- Empirical quality
- Presentation of results
- Importance for the development of the scholarly and/or professional field
- Overall impression
- Societal impact

Timeframe and deadlines

In any year in which the award is announced, the following calendar will apply:

- March 15: deadline for handing in submissions
- March 31: distribution to jurors
- June 1: jurors' feedback
- July 1: identification of winner
- July 31: communication of results to applicants
- August: winner's travel arrangements

About EUPRERA

The European Public Relations Education and Research Association (EUPRERA) is an independent organisation that aims at stimulating and promoting innovative knowledge and practices of public relations, strategic communication, and organisational communication across Europe. Founded in 1959 and previously named CERP Education & Research, EUPRERA is a network with over 500 members from more than 40 countries where academics and professionals attract, convey, disseminate and create innovations in the field. Several cross-national and comparative research and education projects are organised by members and affiliated universities. EUPRERA organises an annual congress in collaboration with a selected university or college in Europe.

Contact

Potential applicants can contact the chairs of the jury for additional information:

Prof. Dr. Stefania Romenti, Prof. Dr. Ralph Tench
phdaward@euprera.org

Submissions should be directed to the chairs of the jury and also to the EUPRERA Director of Public Relations and Administration:

Anca Anton
dpra@euprera.org

More information is available on the EUPRERA website: www.euprera.org, www.euprera.org/phd-award