

STANISŁAW LEM EUROPEAN RESEARCH PRIZE (LEM PRIZE) – RULES AND REGULATIONS
EDITION 2026

Article 1. Prize

1. The Stanisław Lem European Research Prize (the Lem Prize) has been established to commemorate the 100th birthday of the great Polish visionary and science fiction novelist, Stanisław Lem, awarded doctorate *honoris causa* of Wrocław University of Science and Technology (Wrocław Tech) in 1981. The essential elements of Lem's literary legacy: people, science, technology, progress and future – are also the core elements defining the mission and aspirations of Wrocław Tech.
2. The Lem Prize is awarded annually to one young researcher whose creative recent work in science or engineering has the potential to have a positive impact on the future of our civilization that is increasingly filled with technology.
3. The Lem Prize is administered and financed by Wrocław Tech from its own awards fund.

Article 2. Committee

1. The Lem Prize Committee is appointed by the Rector of Wrocław Tech and includes at least 3 persons from each of the following groups:
 - 1) distinguished scientists from outside of Wrocław Tech;
 - 2) *professores magni* (the title of *professor magnus* is awarded to the most accomplished professors of Wrocław Tech);
 - 3) members of *Academia Iuvenum* (*Academia Iuvenum* is composed of the outstanding young scientists at Wrocław Tech).
2. The Chairman of the Committee is a member of a Committee from outside of Wrocław Tech.
3. Additionally, the Committee may include honorary members.
4. The composition of the Committee is available at <https://lemprize.pwr.edu.pl>.

Article 3. Candidates

1. Applications or nominations for the Lem Prize may be submitted by (or on behalf of) candidates meeting all of the following requirements:
 - 1) they have not reached the age of 40 by the end of the year preceding a given edition of the Lem Prize (e.g., in the 2026 edition: they were born on 1 January 1986 or later)¹;

¹ Adjustment of the age requirement for maternity or paternity leave follows the rules of ERC:
<https://erc.europa.eu/parental-leave>

- 2) they are affiliated with an academic or research institution in a European Union member state, in an associated country² participating in Horizon Europe, or in Switzerland;
 - 3) they have made in the last 3 full calendar years (e.g., in the 2026 edition: from 1 January 2023 until the submission) a discovery or significant achievement in broadly understood fields of science and engineering, with strong elements of technology, interdisciplinarity, creativity and vision.
2. Candidates affiliated with Wrocław Tech for the last 3 years (e.g., in the 2026 edition: from 1 January 2023 until the submission) are excluded from participation in the competition.

Article 4. Criteria

1. The Committee evaluates the applications/nominations based on the following criteria:
 - 1) excellence of the conducted research and originality of the idea or method;
 - 2) the immediate and long-term impact on the particular discipline or research field or beyond, benefits to the global society, and relevance to the major current civilizational challenges;
 - 3) scientific, technological, and interdisciplinary aspects of the research or discovery.
2. The decision of the Committee is final and cannot be challenged.

Article 5. Procedure

1. Candidates must submit the following documents in English:
 - 1) application form – in the form specified in Annex 1;
 - 2) up to 3 publications confirming the discovery or achievement (books, articles, patents or patent applications, etc.);
 - 3) 2 or 3 recommendation letters, including a maximum of one by a person affiliated in the same country; recommendations ought to be addressed to the Lem Prize Committee and include the name, title, function, affiliation and signature of the recommending person and the date of the recommendation.
2. Documents in electronic form (preferably in PDF) should be sent to the Department of Science and Research of Wrocław Tech to the address: lemprize@pwr.edu.pl.
3. All applications should be submitted between July 1 and September 30, 2026 at the latest.
4. All of the documents must be secured with the same password. The password should be sent in a separate e-mail or via SMS to the phone number +48 661 531 020 according to

² https://research-and-innovation.ec.europa.eu/strategy/strategy-research-and-innovation/europe-world/international-cooperation/association-horizon-europe_en

the following format: first name, last name, e-mail address from which the documents were sent, password.

5. Applications which are incomplete or arrive after the deadline will not be considered.
6. The Lem Prize Committee will select and inform the winner by e-mail by 4 November 2026.
7. The announcement of the results to the public will take place on 15 November 2026 during the annual celebrations of Wrocław Tech's anniversary.

Article 6. Reward

1. The Lem Prize winner will receive a monetary reward in the amount of 100 000 PLN (or the equivalent in EUR³) and a certificate. The prize is subject to taxation in accordance with the applicable regulations.
2. The reward will be paid by 31 December 2026. To receive the payment, the winner shall provide the original documents:
 - 1) a declaration of personal data that is necessary for the payment of the prize and for the preparation of tax information to the relevant tax office;
 - 2) certificate of tax residency or a declaration of the lack of such a certificate.

to the following address:

Department of Science and Research
Wrocław University of Science and Technology
Wybrzeże Wyspiańskiego 27
50-370 Wrocław
POLAND

Article 7. Winner's obligations

1. The winner will present the "Lem Lecture" to the open public, as well as additional lectures to the fellow specialists, and also meet with Academia Iuvenum and student organizations at Wrocław Tech within the following year.
2. The winner's travel and accommodation costs related to the performance of the obligations set out in point 1 above are covered entirely by Wrocław Tech.

Article 8. Processing of personal data

1. Wrocław Tech is the controller of the competition participants' personal data.
2. Wrocław Tech (as a Data Controller) processes personal data for the purpose of conducting the competition, including awarding the Lem Prize, in accordance with the

³ according to the average exchange rate of the National Bank of Poland on the business day preceding the payment date

Regulation of the European Parliament and the Council of the European Union 2016/679 of April 27, 2016, on the protection of natural persons with regard to the processing of personal data and on the free movement of such data. Contacting a Controller's representative is possible by writing a letter to the address of the Controller's registered seat or using the contact form on the webpage <https://pwr.edu.pl/contact>. The Controller has appointed a Data Protection Officer who can be contacted at: iod@pwr.edu.pl. The Controller ensures that the data subjects whose data it processes have the rights as set out in the GDPR to access, correct, erase, restrict the processing of, transfer, rectify, as well as object to the processing of their data. Most of the rights are not absolute – detailed explanations can be found in the privacy policy: <https://pwr.edu.pl/en/privacy-policy>.

3. Providing data, including personal data, for the purpose of the competition is voluntary, but necessary to participate in the competition.

Article 9. Contact

1. Any questions about the Lem Prize competition should be sent to: lemprize@pwr.edu.pl.
2. Further information about the competition is also available at: <https://lemprize.pwr.edu.pl>.