

TRAVISIONS 2024



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- TRA2024 –

**Senior Researcher Competition rules,
guidelines and evaluation criteria**

1. INTRODUCTION

The concept of the TRA VISIONS 2024 Senior Researcher Competition is to have an excellence award for senior researchers who have contributed with significant innovative ideas and concepts, based on results from EU-funded projects in the field of transport. This competition will act as a tool for further disseminating knowledge and results from innovation and/or research projects in transport, for promoting future synergies, as well as for further developing pioneering ideas in line with the strategic objectives of the TRA stakeholders. The winners of the TRA VISIONS 2024 Senior Researcher Competition will act as a showcase for the very best EU-funded innovation and research and either acknowledge the achievements of established leaders in the field or encourage the development of the rising stars who will become future leaders.

The Senior Researcher Competition will cover all transport modes (road, rail, waterborne, air and cross-modality) including infrastructures and cross-cutting issues in line with the EC 'Sustainable and Smart Mobility Strategy' for green, smart, affordable and integrated mobility. The Science and Technology (S&T) objectives are to nurture the best transport researchers and innovators in Europe, promote the alignment of their interests with those of transport stakeholders, encourage them to participate in the Transport Research Arena 2024 Conference (TRA 2024) and celebrate their achievements. TRA VISIONS 2024 seeks to reflect the multidisciplinary nature of the transport domain and, for this reason, addresses all stakeholders in both the public and private sectors and all professionals, regardless of their roles (researchers, practitioners, designers, constructors, operators, administrators, etc.).



2. PROCESS AND EVALUATION CRITERIA

Entrants shall first express their interest in the Senior Researcher Competition either through the TRA VISIONS 2024 section on the TRA 2024 Conference portal. All entrants will subsequently have to submit their full competition entry, demonstrating how their research and/or innovation has been scientifically and/or publicly impactful. The competition entry must supply the information in the format requested on the TRA VISIONS 2024 website and pertain to the entrant's EU-funded transport-related research.

The evaluation will take place in three stages. Firstly, entries will be checked for eligibility, and relevance against a baseline metric to create a long list for each mode. Entrants may be asked to provide any missing/additional information at this stage. In the second stage, (at least two) independent transportation experts will judge the longlisted entries based on the evidence provided. Consideration will be given to the:

- Impact of research on national, European and global levels (max 40, threshold 25). This can be a combination of scientific impact; economic and societal impact; policy development and public outreach.
- Research track record (max 40, threshold 25). This will include publication track record, patents and research leadership. The assessment of the track record will also take into account the time spent on the achievement of these records.
- Total amount of EU funding (max 20, threshold 12). Entries must be based on transport-related research and/or innovation, funded by the EU.

The output of the second stage will be a shortlist of top entrants for each transportation mode, to be considered further during the final stage of the evaluation, which will be a dedicated shortlisting workshop. It is expected that each shortlist will have 3-5 entries. The organisers may request additional information from the shortlisted entrants before proceeding to the shortlisting workshop. Said workshop will be attended by the TRA VISIONS 2024 Consortium members, transportation experts and stakeholders involved in TRA 2024, the Advisory Board members as well as the European Commission. Using their expert knowledge and the published selection criteria the judging panel will select the 5 winners, one for each transport mode (Road, Rail, Waterborne, Air and Cross-modality) to attend the award ceremony.

3. AWARDS

Winners and shortlisted entrants will be notified well in advance of the TRA 2024 Conference. Each winner will be awarded a trophy during the TRA 2024 Conference which will be held in April 2024, in Dublin, Ireland. There will be opportunities for the winners to publicise their research during the TRA 2024 Conference. Shortlisted entrants will receive a certificate acknowledging their achievement.



4. COMPETITION RULES

1. Entries must be made to to the TRA VISIONS 2024 public website <https://www.travisions.eu/> or via the TRA 2024 Conference portal <https://traconference.eu/>.
2. Entries must be based on results from EU-funded transport-related research projects.
3. Entrants must select the most appropriate transport mode for their submission. The material in submissions need not be exclusively constrained to a single transport mode but entries can only be considered under one transport mode. The competition organisers reserve the right to reallocate any entrant that they regard to have been incorrectly categorized.
4. Only one entry to the competition per person.
5. All entries must be in English.
6. Previous winners are not eligible for the mode-specific competition but are eligible for the special honorary award.
7. Previous entrants, including those shortlisted, are eligible to re-enter the competition.
8. Entrants must not be directly related or affiliated with the individuals participating in the TRA VISIONS 2024 (Project No 101056931) consortium.
9. The deadline for entry is 31st October 2023.
10. Shortlisted entrants will be informed in good time and given adequate time to provide any additional material requested.
11. A winner will be selected in each transport mode; road, rail, waterborne, airborne and cross-modality. Each winner will be awarded a trophy.
12. An additional (sixth) special honorary award will be granted to a very senior researcher. There will be one winner for this award, irrespective of transport mode (see Section 6).
13. Nominated winners will be required to attend the award event at the TRA 2024 Conference. In addition, winners will be expected to cooperate promptly with the competition organisers for reasonable requests for additional material to support the awards ceremony, publicity and TRA 2024 Conference. If the nominated winner is unable to attend the TRA 2024 Conference, the award may, at the discretion of the competition organisers, be given to another entrant on the shortlist.
14. For the six winners (mode-specific and honorary), the organisers will contribute to Conference fees, reasonable accommodation and travel expenses to the TRA 2024 Conference in Dublin, Ireland. This is conditional upon the provision of receipts and limited to a maximum contribution of 850€.



15. Winners are responsible for organizing their registration, accommodation and travel to and from the TRA 2024 conference in Dublin, Ireland.
16. Winners will be acknowledged on the TRA 2024 Conference website and may be acknowledged on the websites of the project Consortium members.
17. Shortlisted entrants will receive a certificate acknowledging their achievement.
18. Entrants must comply with all rules to be eligible for the awards, certificates and contributions towards their accommodation and travel expenses.
19. No responsibility is accepted for ineligible entries or entries made fraudulently.
20. Entrants will be deemed to have accepted these rules and to agree to be bound by them when entering this competition.
21. The competition organisers do not accept any responsibility for late or lost entries due to the poor performance of the Internet – applicants are advised to apply as early as possible.
22. The Judges' decision is final in every situation including any not covered in these rules and no correspondence will be entered into.
23. The Judges and competition organisers reserve the right to have discretion regarding the rules including amending dates.
24. The organisers reserve the right to cancel the competition at any stage, if deemed necessary in their opinion, and if circumstances arise outside of their control. In such circumstances, no costs will be refunded.
25. The organisers reserve the right not to select a winner in one or more transport modes in the unlikely event that the Judges decide that no entry is of sufficient standard, similar to the special honorary award.

5. TRA VISIONS 2024 SPECIAL HONORARY AWARD

An additional –sixth- special award will be introduced, for honouring a “very” senior researcher who is about to complete or has already completed their career, and who has through the years made an outstanding and well-recognized contribution to transport-related research and innovation in their respective field. Someone who has, throughout their career, demonstrated groundbreaking and future-oriented views and research.

A Board of distinguished and renowned personalities from all transport modes will be created for selecting the winner of the TRA VISIONS 2024 special honorary award. An Open Call for nominations will be launched to the entire transport research community. Nominations can be made by single persons, including the members of the Board, or groups of persons. Self-nominations are excluded.

Each nomination shall include a proper justification based on the overall impact, visionary



thinking, breakthrough achievements and track record of the nominated person (including but not limited to EU funding policy impact, publication track record, patents and research leadership, etc.). The justification shall not be more than two (2) pages long. The criteria for the selection of the winner will be holistic. There will be only one winner for this award, irrespective of transport mode.

6. FURTHER INFORMATION

For further information about the competition, please visit TRA VISIONS 2024 public website <https://www.travisions.eu/> or via the TRA 2024 Conference portal <https://traconference.eu/> where you will be able to find a link to the TRA VISIONS 2024 Senior Researcher competitions, frequently asked questions and research area-specific information.

Alternatively, you may contact the Senior Researcher Competition organizer, Dr Bidisha Ghosh, at: bghosh@tcd.ie



APPENDIX I: TRA VISIONS 2024 SENIOR RESEARCHER COMPETITION INDICATIVE TIMELINE

