

# “MAKE OUR PLANET GREAT AGAIN” PRIZE FOR ENVIRONMENT & CLIMATE RESEARCH 2024 BNP Paribas / Embassy of France in the Czech Republic

## **Article 1**      **Scope of the competition**

BNP Paribas and the French Embassy in the Czech Republic organize a competition for the “Make Our Planet Great Again Prize for environment & climate research” in 2024.

The goal of this competition is to award the best PhD research work in all fields of **environment & climate research**. Every institution of research and higher education in environment & climate research in the Czech Republic may propose high level candidates.

## **Article 2**      **Institutions involved and coordinators**

All institutions of research and higher education (universities and institutes of the Czech Academy of Sciences) may enlist their students in the competition for the “Make Our Planet Great Again” Prize.

They have to designate a coordinator and provide his or her name to the scientific department of the French Embassy in the Czech Republic **at the latest by February 13<sup>th</sup>, 2024**.

## **Article 3**      **Criteria for selecting participants**

All students of Czech universities, institutions of higher education and institutes of the Czech Academy of Sciences may take part in the competition provided they fulfill the following conditions:

- Their PhD research is encompassed within the field defined in Article 1.
- They are of Czech or Slovak nationality and are **younger than 33 years old on May 1<sup>st</sup>, 2024\***.
- They are currently enrolled in a doctorate cycle at a Czech institution of research and higher education **or** they have defended their PhD dissertation in 2023 or 2024.
- Their PhD studies do not collude with any work for BNP Paribas.
- They are the author of at least one scientific paper published or accepted for publication in a peer-reviewed international periodical.

*\* Extensions can be granted to applicants who took a break from their studies for maternity or parental leave. The coordinator must inform the French Embassy of such cases to make sure the conditions are fulfilled.*

## **Article 4**      **Role of the coordinator**

The coordinator of the “Make Our Planet Great Again Prize 2024” project has the task of organizing the selection of the best participants from the ranks of the students enrolled at the given institution of research or higher education. These candidates will then be entered by the relevant institution in the competition.



The coordinator shall verify that individual participants fulfill the conditions for participating in the competition (see Article 3). **It is their responsibility to check their eligibility.** Subsequently, he/she shall give to the French Embassy in the Czech Republic the names and contact information – personal and work – of all candidates taking part in the competition using the model in Annex 1 **at the latest by March 12<sup>th</sup>, 2024.**

**At the same time, the coordinators must indicate if they or another representative from their institution will sit on the evaluation committee –if they will not sit, they must provide the name of the representative that will (see Articles 6 and 9).**

Institutions with no candidates will not be represented in the evaluation committee.

Each coordinator must choose **a maximum of one candidate by faculty or institute of the Academy of Science.** The president of the selection committee and the attachée for scientific and university cooperation of the French Embassy in the Czech Republic may preselect candidates should there be too many applications.

## **Article 5**      **Applications to the competition**

Each candidate must deliver by email the complete Application package described in **Annex 2** to the French Embassy in the Czech Republic (scientific department) **at the latest by April 9<sup>th</sup>, 2024.**

## **Article 6**      **Selection committee**

The selection committee will meet **on May 27<sup>th</sup>, 2024.**

The committee should be presided over by Jean-Luc Schneider. Further members of this professional selection committee shall be:

- The attachée for scientific and university cooperation of the French Embassy in the Czech Republic.
- One representative of each institution of research and higher education from which candidates have been selected.

Individual applicants shall be invited by the French Embassy. They will present in English their PhD research to the committee and answer their questions.

After the oral presentation, the selection committee shall proceed with the final deliberations. The evaluation of the commission shall be recorded in the protocol. The laureates of the Prize will be informed of the results of the competition within a week after the meeting of the selection committee.

## **Article 7**      **Financial Subsidies and stipends**

- **1<sup>st</sup> Prize:** 80,000 CZK, a stipend for a one-month internship in France
- **2<sup>nd</sup> Prize:** 50,000 CZK and a stipend for a one-month internship in France
- **3<sup>rd</sup> Prize:** 30,000 CZK

The award prizes are provided to the winners' universities by BNP Paribas. Participating faculties/institutes must undertake to transfer the prize money to their laureates by signing a commitment letter prior to the auditions of the candidates.

The stipends for internships in France are provided by the French Embassy in the Czech Republic. These internships must take place in a French research center, and that at the latest **by December 31<sup>st</sup>, 2025.**

Winners must confirm to the French Embassy **by January 31<sup>st</sup>, 2025** whether they will conduct the internship or not. The scientific research center shall be chosen entirely by the laureates.



We remind the candidates that this grant awarded by the French embassy **is meant to support an internship and not a post-doctoral contract.**

### **Article 8**      **Awarding ceremony**

The official awarding of the “Make Our Planet Great Again” Prize will take place during the week of **June 24<sup>th</sup>, 2024** at the French Embassy in the presence of the Ambassador of France to the Czech Republic. The awards will be handed over to the laureates by Professor Jean-Marie Lehn, the Nobel Laureate in Chemistry.

The formal ceremony shall be attended not only by all awarded students, but also by their PhD supervisors and the representatives of the universities, institutions of higher education and institutes of the Czech Academy of Sciences.

Students might be invited to cooperate with the media (e.g. interviews) and understand that media materials form ceremonial may be used for marketing purposes.

### **Article 9**      **Time Schedule**

<b>February 13<sup>th</sup>, 2024</b>	Designation of project coordinators at institutions of higher education.
<b>March 12<sup>th</sup>, 2024</b>	The coordinators inform the French Embassy of: <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>- the names and contact information of applicants entered for their institution of research and/or higher education.</li></ul> The names and contacts of the representative of their institution that will sit in the evaluation committee—either them or someone else.
<b>April 9<sup>th</sup>, 2024</b>	Deadline for sending the complete documentation of applications at the following address: <a href="mailto:louis.augendre@ifp.cz">louis.augendre@ifp.cz</a> .
<b>May 27<sup>th</sup>, 2024</b>	Oral presentations by candidates before the selection committee.
<b>June 2024</b>	Awarding ceremony.
<b>At the latest by December 31<sup>st</sup>, 2025</b>	Internship of awarded students in France.



### Annex 1: Letter of nominated candidates

**The letter must be with letterhead of the institution and signed by the coordinator.**

**Object:** Nominated Candidates of the [University's name] for the French Embassy Scientific Prizes

Dear Sir or Madam,

I the undersigned [Name and Position], hereby certify that the following applicants have been nominated as candidates of [University's name], for the [Name] Prize, and that they fulfilled all selection criteria on stated in the condition for the Prize.

**First name / last Name**

Nominating institution and department/faculty/institute

Date of birth:

Personal email:

Professional email:

Personal phone number:

Professional phone number:

**First name / last Name**

Nominating institution and department/faculty/institute

Date of birth:

Personal email:

Professional email:

Personal phone number:

Professional phone number:



## Annex 2: Application Package

The application package must be sent by the candidate himself.

It includes:

- An Academic curriculum vitae, including a list of publications in English. For publications in a peer-reviewed academic journal recognized by such databases as Web of Science or Scopus, please indicate their ranking.
- A written max. 5 pages-long illustrations included, presentation of the applicant's research activities and applicability prospects in English (the references can be indicated on additional pages). Word format is recommended.
- A max. half-page long summary of the above-mentioned presentation with basic information from the aforementioned presentation in Czech and in English
- A signed letter of recommendation with letterhead of the institution written by the applicant's scientific supervisor, presenting both the student and his research work

All documents should be in PDF and sent altogether in the same email and in the same zip file to [louis.augendre@ifp.cz](mailto:louis.augendre@ifp.cz). The title of the email and file should be as follow: "**MOPGA–First letter of First name. Last Name– University acronym– Faculty or Institute**". Please, do not put any accent in the titles of the documents and files.

**Candidates to the MOPGA Prize need to sign up [here](#) to complete their application.**

Applications that will not respect these indications will not be accepted.