# 33rd International Cartographic Conference
# Best Early-Career Research Awards
# Competition Regulations

## I. General information

### §1. Purpose of the Competition

The Best Early-Career Research Awards Competition is held during the 33rd International Cartographic Conference (hereinafter referred to as the “ICC 2027”). The purpose of the Competition is to promote outstanding Early-Career research, disseminate good practices in presenting research findings, and to foster integration within the academic and professional communities working in cartography and geoinformation.

The Competition is open to researchers whose oral presentations are accepted for ICC 2027, who are both the first and presenting authors of their submissions, and who will register and pay the conference fee. To participate in the Competition, participants must prepare a poster based on the accepted oral presentation.

### §2. Organisers of the Competition

The Organisers of the Competition are the organisers of the 33rd International Cartographic Conference: a consortium consisting of the Association of Polish Surveyors, the Faculty of Geography and Regional Studies at the University of Warsaw, and the Faculty of Geodesy and Cartography at the Warsaw University of Technology (hereinafter referred to as the “Consortium”).

## II. General Rules of the Competition

### §1. Competition Categories

The Competition is divided into two categories based on the participants' academic qualifications:

1. Category I – Competition for Early-Career researchers with a PhD (or the highest equivalent terminal degree);
2. Category II – Competition for Early-Career researchers without a PhD.

Participants compete exclusively within their respective categories, with separate awards granted in each category. Eligibility criteria are explained in section 3 §1.

### §2. The Jury

The Winners of the Competition (hereinafter referred to as the “Winners”) are selected by the Competition Jury (hereinafter referred to as the “Jury”), which will

consist of at least three members, including at least one member from the ICA Executive Committee and at least one member of the ICC 2027 Local Organising Committee. The composition of the Jury will be announced on the first day of the ICC 2027. The Jury elects its chairperson by open vote.

1. The final result is determined through the assessment by the Jury.
2. The Jury evaluates both Category I and Category II.
3. Decisions of the Competition Jury are final and are not subject to appeal.
4. The Jury awards first, second, and third place in both Category I and Category II of the Competition.
5. Joint placings (*ex aequo*) are permitted.
6. The Jury may award honourable mentions in Category I and Category II of the Competition.
7. In justified cases, the Jury may decide not to award one or more of the places referred to in point 4.
8. A Jury member has to declare any conflict of interest. In the event of a conflict of interest, the Jury member will not evaluate the person's work.

### §3. Results and Awards

1. The results of the Competition (Category I, Category II) are announced at the ICC 2027 Closing Ceremony.
2. The Competition results are published on the ICC 2027 website and in other media.
3. First-, second- and third-place Winners in Category I and Category II will receive prizes and certificates confirming their success in the Competition. Participants with honourable mentions will receive certificates confirming their success in the Competition.
4. All participants will receive a certificate stating that their research was selected for the Competition.

## III. Eligible Participants and Applications

### §1. Eligible Participants

1. An ‘Early-Career’ researcher is defined for this Competition as:
   1.1. person having received a PhD or the highest equivalent terminal degree within the 10 years preceding the Competition (i.e. in 2017 or later), or
   1.2. person without a PhD (A. current enrollment as a student in a degree-granting institution, or B. being within ten years of graduation from a degree program, i.e. in 2017 or later; in cases A and B, bachelor's, engineer's and master's degrees are taken into account).

2. Participants mentioned in 1.1. and 1.2.B. must upload proof when their most recent degree was conferred in the Competition application form.
3. The Competition Organisers may grant exceptions to this requirement for early career interruptions related to maternity/paternity leave, caregiver leave, or other standard university tenure-clock extensions. Applicants should describe the reasons for an exception in the Competition application form.
4. The Competition is open to all Early-Career participants attending the ICC 2027 whose oral submission was accepted and who have registered and paid the conference fee.
5. The participant has to be the first author and presenting author of the oral submission.

### §2. Application to the Competition

1. Participants apply to the Competition using a digital Competition application form provided by the ICC 2027 LOC on the ICC 2027 website.
2. The form is made available online on February 1, 2027.
3. Applications must be submitted no later than May 15, 2027 (23:59 CEST).
4. The application must include: details of the author(s); title of submission.
5. Participants may enter the Competition with one submission. If more than one submission meets the criteria listed in section III. § 1 point 5, the participant may only submit one of them. In the event of two separate entries, the first entry will be accepted for consideration.

## IV. Organisation of the Competition

### §1. Stages of the Competition

The Competition consists of two stages:

1. Stage I – formal qualification aimed at verifying fulfillment of the eligibility criteria and submission of the poster (conducted by digital forms and correspondence);
2. Stage II – final evaluation of submitted works at the Competition Poster Exhibition (held in person at ICC 2027).

### §2. Stage I – Formal Qualification and Submission of the Poster

1. The qualification digital application form will be accessible on the ICC 2027 website starting February 1, 2027. The form will close after May 15, 2027.
2. The Competition Organisers verify the eligibility of participants and inform them of the result via email correspondence by May 25, 2027.
3. Formally qualified participants prepare a scientific poster (PDF file).

4. Qualified participants send the poster via the Competition submission form. The link to the submission form will be sent to formally qualified participants in the last week of May 2027. The submission form will be open until 1 July 2027 (23:59 CEST).
5. The poster is consistent with the oral submission of the participant accepted for ICC 2027. The participant has to be the first author and the presenting author of the submission.
6. The poster must contain the following elements:
   6.1. portrait orientation (measuring 70 × 100 cm);
   6.2. motivation for undertaking the topic;
   6.3. aim of the work;
   6.4. methodology;
   6.5. results and discussion of the results;
   6.6. conclusions;
   6.7. selected references
   6.8. report on used AI tools.
7. Authors are obliged to report whether and how they used AI tools in their work (including the use of AI tools in creation of the poster). Any instance of such action must be transparently disclosed within the poster.
8. The poster submitted to this Competition has to be unique.
9. The poster submitted to this Competition cannot be the same as a poster that was submitted at a different conference, contest or competition.

**§3. Stage II – Competition Poster Exhibition**

1. The final stage is held at ICC 2027, in person.
2. The Organisers provide a separate place for the display of posters from Category I and Category II of the Competition.
3. Qualified participants bring printed copies of their posters (same as the submitted PDF file) to the venue of the final stage.
4. Members of the Jury may ask questions during Stage II at the poster exhibition. The discussions are not subject to evaluation.
5. Each Jury member awards points to the poster individually.
6. After the Competition Poster Exhibition, all posters will be displayed at ICC 2027.
7. An oral presentation is a condition for participation in the Competition. The Competition Organizers will verify whether the participant has delivered a presentation.
8. The results of Category I and Category II of the Competition are announced at the ICC 2027 Closing Ceremony.

## V. Evaluation Criteria and Scoring Records

### §1. Evaluation Criteria (maximum 100 points)

1. Originality and motivation of the research problem: 0–25 points.
2. Explanation of methods: 0–25 points.
3. Communication of results, including importance of findings: 0–25 points.
4. Design and use of text, maps, images and figures: 0–15 points.
5. Poster clarity and cohesion: 0–10 points.

### §2. Method of Calculating Results

1. Each Jury member individually awards points to each poster in an online form.
2. The final score of the poster is the arithmetic mean of the Jury's scores.

## VI. Final Statements

### §1. Final Provisions

1. The Competition documentation is archived by the Organisers.
2. The Organisers do not cover the costs of printing posters or the travel costs of Jury members and participants attending the Stage II.
3. The Organisers have the right to publish online data of participants (name, surname, affiliation) and posters submitted to the Competition.
4. Participants have to collect their posters after the ICC 2027 Closing Ceremony. Uncollected posters will be destroyed or donated to research/teaching institutions.
5. In matters not covered by these Regulations or ICC 2027 Terms & Conditions, the decision-making body is the Consortium.
6. These Regulations enter into force on the date of their adoption.

### §2. Processing of Personal Data

1. The controller of the personal data provided in connection with participation in the Competition is the Organiser (Consortium).
2. The rules governing the collection and processing of personal data are set out in Annex 1 to these Regulations.
3. The Organiser of the Competition and entities processing data on behalf of the Organiser reserve the right to publish the names, photographs and other information concerning Competition participants, as well as interviews with them, in the press, on the radio, on the Internet and on television.