



André Mischke YAE Prize for Science and Policy 2026

Call for nominations

v. 1.1 2026-01-30

Since 2017, the Young Academy of Europe Prize has been awarded annually to an early to mid-career professional in recognition of their outstanding achievements and contributions to key areas of the YAE. In 2019, the YAE Prize was named “**André Mischke YAE Prize for Science and Policy**” in honour of the late YAE Founding Chair, André Mischke. The prize is given to support and promote science, evidence-based policy making, science communication, and future generation scientists and scholars in Europe.

2026 edition

Currently, the search committee is looking for nominations for the 2026 award, which will be the 10th edition of this Prize. Nominations should be sent to yae-prize@yacadeuro.org by **28 February 2026 at the latest**, and should include a **short CV** (max. 2 pages) accompanied by a **short statement** (max. 1 page) describing key activities and providing evidence of relevant accomplishments for which the candidate is nominated for.

Selection criteria and procedure

The **André Mischke YAE Prize for Science and Policy** honours outstanding contributions and achievements that align with the core mission of the YAE. It is awarded on recommendation of the YAE Board and the YAE Prize Search Committee (see below). The YAE prize (EUR 1 000, contingent on sufficient available funds) will be officially awarded at the Annual Meeting of the YAE.

Eligibility

1. Candidates should be early-to mid-career academics or professionals (e.g., max. 15 years after obtaining their PhD with recognition of career breaks as defined by the European Research Council [Working Programme 2026](#)ⁱ) of any nationality, but who are working/have worked in Europe, or abroad at a European Institution.
2. The candidate is neither a YAE member nor a YAE alumna/alumnus.
3. Self-nominations are not accepted.

ⁱ credit given for parental leave (18 months per child or if more than the actual leave for women, actual time taken off for men); credit given for national service



General criteria for the André Mischke YAE Prize for Science and Policy

Candidates are **excellent active scholars** who will have demonstrated **at least one of the following**

- **Important contributions to European science policy**, by actively reaching out and engaging with policy makers in an attempt to influence science policy and contribute to the development of a European science agenda for the coming decades
- Important contributions to **evidence-based policy at the European level**
- Important contributions to **science communication and citizen science**, especially facilitating communication between scientists and scholars with the general public in Europe, with an emphasis on societal issues, quality of life and standards of living in Europe
- Important contributions to **strengthening the solidarity and networking amongst exceptional young researchers and scholars in Europe** in order to create a pool of information, pass on experience, give feedback, and provide active support to colleagues across Europe and future generations of leading scientists

Prize

- The awardee will receive a **cash prize** of EUR 1000.
- The awardee of the **André Mischke YAE Prize for Science and Policy** will be invited to give the **André Mischke YAE Prize for Science and Policy** Lecture at the Annual Meeting of the YAE and Academia Europaea following the award. (In 2026, this event will take place around 14-15 October, in Budapest.)
- Recipients of the award are expected to contribute a paper to the issue of European Review published on occasion of the AE/YAE Annual Conference, based on their contributions to European policy and science.

Procedure for identifying candidates to receive the award

- All members of the YAE, European National Young Academies, Academia Europaea and other European (scientific) organizations (academies and societies) are invited to nominate an outstanding candidate for the YAE prize. Self-nominations are not accepted.
- Nominations must provide the following:
 - Summary of key achievements (1 Page)
 - Short CV (max. 2 pages)
- The closing date for nomination for the 2026 edition is **February 28, 2026**.
- The YAE Prize Search Committee will evaluate nominations and obtain references if needed, and prepare a shortlist. The Awardee will be selected by a vote of the currently elected Board of the YAE from this shortlist.



- Second and third placed nominations will be kept for the next year's edition.
- If none of the nominated candidates meet the requirements, the André Mischke YAE Prize of that year will not be awarded.

YAE Prize Search Committee

The search committee for the **André Mischke YAE Prize for Science and Policy** has two representatives for each of the three domains (Life Sciences; Physical Sciences and in Engineering; Social Sciences and Humanities) and includes the YAE Chair and the Chair of the YAE Advisory Council.

Representatives of Life Sciences

Katalin Solymosi (Chair)
Leif Schroeder

Representatives of Physical Sciences and Engineering

Sebastian Leidel
Moniek Tromp

Representatives of Social Sciences and Humanities

Björn Wittrock
Monica Brinzai

Advisory members

Anna von der Heydt
Arild Husby (as Advisory Council Chair)
Anna Kuppuswamy (as YAE Chair)



YAE Prize 2017: Rianne Letschert



Prof. Letschert has had an outstanding academic career, working in the field of international law, with a focus on minority rights and human rights, and is now the Rector Magnificus (equivalent to Provost) of Maastricht University – the youngest female rector ever appointed at a Dutch university. She is a vocal and active advocate of science communication for young people, and for promoting diversity. She had been given the award for the “Top Female Role Model in Science” from Tilburg University.

YAE Prize 2018: Gabi Lombardo



Dr Lombardo is an expert in global research funding, research and education policies, and international higher education. She has experience in the interface of strategy, policy, research and business. She is a constant promoter of the value of Social Sciences and Humanities in her position as the Director of The European Alliance for SSH, which is the largest science policy organization for SSH in Europe, and has a specific approach to give voice in the science policy debate to an international scientific community.

YAE Prize 2019: Janusz Bujnicki



Prof. Bujnicki is working in biology, focusing on bioinformatics, structural biology and synthetic biology. In 2016 he has been elected to the Polish Academy of Sciences as the youngest member of the Academy. Bujnicki has been involved in various scientific organizations and bodies active in the area of science and policy, both in Poland and abroad, among which a second term in the Group of Chief Scientific Advisors within the Scientific Advice Mechanism for the European Commission.



YAE Prize 2020: Grant Hill-Cawthorne



Dr. Hill-Cawthorne is a medical microbiologist and Principal Science adviser to the UK Parliament. Since May 2018, he is Head of the Parliamentary Office of Science and Technology (POST), the science advice unit within the UK Parliament that bridges research and policy. Devoted to engage younger scholars in science policy, he developed a Parliamentary Academic Fellowship Scheme to embed academics in parliamentary departments for discrete research projects designed by Parliament. For 2020, he is the President of the European Parliamentary Technology Assessment network, the international organisation for legislative science advice units.

YAE Prize 2021: Marian Verhelst



Prof. Verhelst is working in microelectronics and chip design, pioneer in custom AI processors, and is head of a research group of the Electrical Engineering Department of KU Leuven. Verhelst has been involved in various organizations and activities, e.g. for the enhancement of science literacy and a larger uptake of STEM studies as founding member of the Flemish STEM platform, and to improve possibilities, work-life balance and the science landscape for early-career researchers as founding member of the Belgian Young Academy, where she served on the Board and as co-president for two years. Verhelst is also passionate about science communication, especially towards young people and girls.

YAE Prize 2022: Gergely Toldi



Dr. Toldi is senior lecturer at the Liggins Institute, University of Auckland, working in neonatal medicine and innovative research in immunology and the field of flow cytometry. He is also co-chair of the 'Widening European participation' thematic mission of the Academia Europaea Budapest Knowledge Hub, for increasing the competitiveness of early career researchers (ECRs) from EU13 countries and improving their representation on the European level. He is also a founding delegate of the Young Academies Science Advice Structure (YASAS), a new initiative to create a formal platform of European young academies for their involvement in European science advice through SAPEA and helped set up both the Hungarian Young Academy (2019) and the United Kingdom Young Academy (2022).



YAE Prize 2023: Renaud Jolivet



Prof. Jolivet is full professor at the Maastricht Centre for Systems Biology, and chair of Neural Engineering & Computation at Maastricht University. Jolivet has also been active in science policy at the European level, first within various working groups of the Marie Curie Alumni Association (MCAA), before being elected to the board of the Association (2018-2020). He served as the MCAA representative on the board of the Initiative for Science in Europe (ISE), and as External Policy Advisor (2019-2022). This work has led to a number of policy documents published by MCAA and ISE (e.g. on research precarity) and to a number of policy workshops and sessions. He is the representative for individual researchers and innovators at the European Commission's ERA Forum.

YAE Prize 2024: Jacek Kolanowski



Dr. Kolanowski is a habilitated assistant professor at the Institute of Bioorganic Chemistry of the Polish Academy of Sciences in Poznan, Poland, and head of the Research Facilities and Innovation Centre, Victor Chang Cardiac Research Institute in Sydney, Australia. He works in the interdisciplinary field of basic and applied biological chemistry. In addition to being active in science outreach, he was a member and chair of the Polish Young Academy and founded the Young Science Beyond Borders conference. Kolanowski was a founding member, Board member and first elected President of the Young Academies Science Advice Structure (YASAS), a pan-European network of Young Academies which – also thanks to his activities – joined officially the Science Advice Mechanism to the European Commission through SAPEA (Science Advice for Policy by European Academies) and ensures the participation of early- and mid-career researchers in science advice at the European level.

YAE Prize 2025: Agnieszka Wykowska



Prof. Wykowska is internationally recognized for her groundbreaking work in human-robot interaction at the Italian Institute of Technology. Her research has been successfully translated into real-world applications such as a robotic training system for children with autism. Since her invitation to speak at the European Parliament in 2018, Wykowska served as delegate to the European Research Area Forum, was involved with the Robert Bosch Foundation and the European Conclave, representing the interests of individual researchers, advocating for greater support for fundamental science and early-career scientists. Beyond policy, she actively promotes equity and inclusion in science, participating in high-level panels (e.g. the International Day of Women and Girls in Science).