

## 1. INTRODUCTION



### NOTE

This document has important clickable links. Please **use them**.

The goal of the *ICEGOV Best Paper Awards* is to acknowledge excellent research performed by the authors whose papers have been accepted and presented at the conference.

The award consists of a certificate (printed or digital), together with a symbolic gift, usually a cultural object from the conference's host country. The certificate and the gift are delivered to the first author of the winning paper by the Awards Committee Chair during the conference's closing ceremony.

A total of four papers categories are awarded at ICEGOV:

- Best Research Paper
- Best Ongoing Research Paper
- Best Short Paper
- Best Poster

## 2. ELIGIBILITY CRITERIA

For a paper to be considered for the Best Paper Awards, all the eligibility criteria below must be met:

- The paper must have a clear link to the themes and topics of the Call for Papers.
- The paper must be original work, not published or considered for publication elsewhere.
- The paper must have at least two reviews.
- The paper must have an overall review score higher than 4.0.
- At least one of the authors must have presented the paper during the conference.

## 3. AWARDS COMMITTEE

The Awards Committee is formed by four people: a **Chair**, who is appointed by UNU-EGOV upon advice from the ICEGOV Steering Committee, and **three additional members**, who are renowned international academics and are invited by the Chair at his/her discretion.

Before the awards committee is formed, a check is made to verify if there is any Conflict of Interest (COI) between the members of the committee and the authors of the conference, such as relatives, students, colleagues or co-authors.

If a conflict is detected, the paper will be automatically excluded from the process. This includes any paper authored or co-authored by a member of the committee.

For information about the current composition of the Awards Committee, please access the [conference website](#).



## 4. SELECTION PROCESS

Once the list of accepted papers for the conference is available, all papers that meet the eligibility criteria are sent to the Awards Committee for evaluation.

The process is blind, meaning that committee members do not have access to author names at any stage of the process.

Each eligible paper must be read, in full, by the committee members and must be evaluated based on the following criteria:

- **Originality (40%):** the originality of the contribution with an emphasis on the paper's innovativeness in theoretical development, empirical results or policy development.
- **Quality of argument (30%):** the quality of the argument incorporated, that is, critical analysis of concepts, theories and findings, and consistency and coherency of the debate.
- **Positioning (15%):** a clear positioning of the paper in existing international literature with conclusions that are both convincing and of significant potential.
- **Writing style (15%):** the quality of the writing style in terms of accuracy, clarity, readability, and the overall organisation of the paper.

The decisions must be made by the committee members consensually or by vote. In case of a tie, the Chair casts the deciding vote.

The committee must nominate three papers in each category. The highest scoring paper in each category shall be selected for the award. If two or more papers receive the same total score, the paper which has the highest score in the highest weighted criteria shall be selected. If the papers are still tied, the highest score paper in the second-highest weighted criteria shall be selected, and so on until a winner is found.

The committee prepares a written justification for the winning paper in each category, which is then made publicly available on the conference website.

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