

“EDUinspirations Science – FRSE Monographs” Competition Regulations

The Foundation for the Development of the Education System runs the competition “EDUinspirations Science – FRSE Monographs”, under which it finances the publication of peer-reviewed works on education in the humanities and social sciences (hereinafter: “Works” or “Monographs”). These regulations (hereinafter: “Regulations”) set out the rules for implementing the initiative.

GENERAL PROVISIONS

§ 1

1. The organiser of the Competition “EDUinspirations Science – FRSE Monographs” (hereinafter: “Competition”) is the Foundation for the Development of the Education System (hereinafter: “Organiser” or “FRSE”), represented by the Director of the Research and Publishing Department, and the body responsible for the substantive aspects of the Competition is the Scientific Council (hereinafter also: “Competition Committee”), whose members are appointed and dismissed by the Director General of the Foundation for the Development of the Education System.
2. The number of monographs to be published in a given edition of the programme, the Competition timetable and the amount of any honoraria in a given year are announced each time in the Competition Notice.
3. The condition for publishing the Monograph is successful completion of the following procedures: initial assessment, substantive assessment and external peer review, signing an agreement granting the Organiser a licence to the works contained in the Work and agreeing the final content of the Work or its parts with the editorial team of the FRSE Research and Publishing Department.
4. Publications issued as a result of the Competition are covered by Creative Commons Open Licences (BY 4.0 Attribution).
5. Works selected in the Competition are published in the FRSE Monographs series in Polish and English.
6. The Competition is conducted under the rules set out in the Regulations and in accordance with generally applicable provisions of law. Submission of a Work to the Competition constitutes acceptance of the Regulations.
7. Applicants are notified electronically of the results of the Competition and of each stage of the assessment. The list of Competition winners is made public on the FRSE website (www.frse.org.pl).

PURPOSE AND PROCEDURE OF THE COMPETITION

§ 2

1. The purpose of the Competition is to support the development of knowledge and skills among the target groups of programmes implemented by FRSE, in particular Erasmus+, by selecting and publishing peer-reviewed, previously unpublished monographs in the humanities and social sciences on the subject matter specified in § 3(3), characterised by a high academic standard.
2. Unpublished doctoral dissertations and publications prepared as part of ongoing research grants, individual research interests or other professional tasks performed within a research unit may be submitted to the Competition.
3. The Competition comprises an initial assessment, a substantive assessment of the submitted works, and an external peer-review process.
4. The best works from the ranking list referred to in § 5(12), in the number indicated in the Competition Notice, are selected for external peer review.
5. The Organiser reserves the right to select fewer Works for external peer review than indicated in the Competition Notice if the submitted Works receive a low substantive assessment score, as referred to in § 5(10).
6. Where none of the works receives a positive initial assessment score, or where all submitted works receive low substantive assessment scores, the Organiser reserves the right to reject those works and to announce a second round of the Competition with a new submission deadline.

CONDITIONS OF PARTICIPATION IN THE COMPETITION

§ 3

1. Scientific works that comply with the definition set out in § 10(1) of the Regulation of the Minister of Science and Higher Education of 22 February 2019 on the evaluation of the quality of scientific activity (consolidated text) may be submitted to the competition “EDUinspirations Science – FRSE Monographs”.
2. Monographs may take the form of a work written by a single Author, a team of Authors (as co-authors) or a group of Authors working under the supervision of a Scientific Editor (edited volume).
3. The subject matter of the Work should relate to a selected area of education from the perspective of the humanities or social sciences, or through an interdisciplinary approach. These areas include: higher education, school education, vocational education and training, adult education and non-formal youth education. The content should address the operation of the Erasmus+ programme and/or its supporting initiatives, activities implemented under these programmes (learner mobility, educational staff mobility, cooperation between institutions for improving the quality of the education system, volunteering) and/or refer to the horizontal priorities of the Erasmus+ programme and/or informal and language education. The Authors are free to choose how the topic is addressed.

4. The Competition will consider works whose Authors/Co-authors submit declarations according to which the Work:
 - 1) is original, has been prepared in its entirety by the persons named therein, and does not infringe the copyrights of third parties;
 - 2) has not been published in whole or in part;
 - 3) is not, whether in whole or in part, involved in any publishing process initiated by the home scientific or research unit, nor in any other publishing process;
 - 4) does not omit as an author any person meeting the definition of authorship set out in the “Principles of Publishing Ethics of the FRSE Research and Publishing Department”;
 - 5) does not use excerpts from publications by other Authors or from their own published works without referencing the source;
 - 6) presents original results or analyses, clearly separated from quotations based on other publications, and, for each quotation, includes a reference to a specific publication;
 - 7) uses data collected and processed with the utmost care and full objectivity;
 - 8) is based on research meeting the ethical standards set out in the Code of Ethics for Researchers;
 - 9) has not been generated, in whole or in part, by tools based on artificial intelligence;
 - 10) has been prepared in the absence of a conflict of interest;
 - 11) lists as Authors only those persons who participated in the following stages of preparation: research design, data analysis, results interpretation, text writing, approval of the version submitted to the FRSE Research and Publishing Department;
 - 12) lists in the “Acknowledgements” section only those persons who are not Authors but who made a significant contribution to the creation of the final version;
 - 13) includes elements (e.g. graphics, photographs, tables, excerpts from literary texts) taken from published sources with the consent of the copyright holders;
 - 14) describes research that does not infringe rights related to the protection of patents, copyrights and other forms of intellectual property of third parties;
 - 15) does not include works commissioned by the Competition Organiser before the Competition was announced, nor works already published.
5. Members of the Competition Committee and members of their immediate family (spouses, ascendants, descendants, siblings, relatives by affinity in the same line or degree, persons in an adoptive relationship), as well as persons in a cohabiting relationship, may not be Authors or Co-authors of the Works.
6. A Scientific Editor submitting an edited volume may not be in a personal relationship with, or related to, a member of the Competition Committee as: a spouse, a person in a cohabiting relationship, an ascendant, a descendant, a sibling, a relative by affinity in the same line or degree, or a person in an adoptive relationship.
7. In the Competition Notice, the Organiser may allow master’s theses to be submitted under a separate Student track, provided that a recommendation justifying the academic or research value of the thesis is attached, prepared by a specialist holding an academic degree or title in the field to which the Work relates. The author of the recommendation may not be the thesis supervisor, a reviewer of the defended thesis, a member of the Competition Committee, or a person connected with the Author of the Competition submission by family,

private, institutional or professional ties. The Competition Notice for the Student track specifies the criteria for assessing works and the type of awards, which may differ from those indicated in these Regulations.

8. A defended, unpublished diploma thesis may be submitted after the expiry of the priority right to publish specified in Article 15(1) of the Act of 4 February 1994 on Copyright and Related Rights (i.e. Journal of Laws of 2025, item 24, as amended; hereinafter: “Copyright Act”).
9. Compliance with the above conditions will be assessed at the initial assessment stage, which may also include verification of the submitted declarations.

SUBMISSION PROCEDURE

§ 4

1. In order to submit a Work, all Authors and Scientific Editors must correctly complete and submit the relevant application documents available in the Competition section under the “Publishing” tab on the FRSE website.
2. The application documents include:
 - a. Application form for participation in the Competition – completed by the Applicant, who may be: the Author of the Work or – in the case of multi-author publications – one of the Authors designated as the contact person for the Organiser, or the Scientific Editor – in the case of an edited volume. The application form is provided in Annex 1 to the Regulations;
 - b. Declaration of the Co-author of the Work / Author (co-author) of a part (chapter) of an edited volume submitted to the competition “EDUinspirations Science – FRSE Monographs” – completed by Co-authors of multi-author works and by Authors (co-authors) of parts (chapters) of edited volumes. The declaration is provided in Annex 2 to the Regulations;
 - c. Information on the Processing of Personal Data for Participants in the Competition “EDUinspirations Science – FRSE Monographs” – completed by the Applicant and the Authors/Co-authors of all texts forming part of the Work (Annex 3 to the Regulations);
 - d. an electronic version of the Work in Polish or English, prepared in compliance with the “Technical Standards for Publications Submitted to the FRSE Research and Publishing Department” – Annex 4 to the FRSE Research and Publishing Department Work Instructions (hereinafter: “Technical Standards”).
3. Competition Works may be submitted in Polish or English, unless otherwise specified in the Competition Notice.
4. Works and attachments are not subject to return. The retention period and the method of deletion are subject to the rules in force at the Foundation for the Development of the Education System.
5. The deadline for submission of Works is specified in the Competition Notice and made public on the FRSE website under the “Publishing” tab.
6. The date of submission of a Work to the Competition is the date of receiving legible and complete documentation meeting the requirements set out in § 4(2).

COMPETITION COMMITTEE AND ASSESSMENT CRITERIA

§ 5

1. The assessment process for Competition Works comprises the following procedures: initial assessment, substantive assessment and external peer review.
2. The initial assessment of submissions may begin before the final deadline for submitting applications. The initial assessment is carried out by the FRSE Research and Publishing Department and approved by its Director. The basis for the initial assessment is the Initial Assessment Sheet for a Competition Work, provided in Annex 4 to the Regulations. The sheet may be in the electronic form.
3. The following elements are subject to the initial assessment:
 - a. the date of receiving the competition documents (as specified in the Competition Notice),
 - b. completeness of the required competition documents (§ 4(2) of the Regulations),
 - c. compliance with the conditions of participation in the Competition specified in § 3 of the Regulations,
 - d. the content and veracity of the declarations on the nature of the Work, provided in Annex 1 or Annex 2.
 - e. preparation of the Work in compliance with the Technical Standards (Annex 4),
 - f. the originality of the Work, including the use of text generators based on artificial intelligence.
4. At the initial assessment stage, the Organiser rejects Works submitted after the deadline, Works that do not meet the conditions of participation in the Competition specified in § 3 (including Works with missing or negatively verified declarations referred to in § 3(4)), and Works for which an originality check using anti-plagiarism software shows borrowing exceeding 15% of the Work's volume or the use of text generators based on artificial intelligence.
5. Where minor deficiencies in the documentation or minor deviations from the Technical Standards are identified at the initial assessment stage, the Organiser may reject the Works or request that the Applicant supplements and resubmits the documents. Supplements must be submitted no later than within 10 working days from the application submission deadline set out in the Competition Notice, and if that deadline has passed – within 10 working days from receiving the request to provide supplements.
6. The substantive assessment of Works is carried out by the Competition Committee. It consists of: It consists of: a representative of the Organiser and members of the Scientific Council of FRSE Publishing. The personal composition of the Competition Committee will be published on the FRSE website under the "Publishing" tab.
7. Meetings of the Competition Committee are convened by the Organiser. Minutes of Competition Committee meetings are prepared by the Secretary of the Competition Committee. The Competition Committee may adopt working regulations.
8. The basis for the substantive assessment is the Substantive Assessment Sheet for a Competition Work, provided in Annex 5 to the Regulations. The sheet may be in the electronic form.

9. Members of the Competition Committee conduct the substantive assessment according to the following criteria:
 - a. approach to the topic is consistent with the objectives and areas of education supported by the Organiser,
 - b. assumptions are novel and the results are significant;
 - c. methodology is sound;
 - d. approach is innovative;
 - e. subject matter and form are coherent;
 - f. Work contributes to the development of scientific theory or research practice,
 - g. Work contributes to achieving the objectives of the Erasmus+ programme or to the development of the education system.
10. For meeting each of the criteria described in paragraph § 5(9), members of the Competition Committee score the Work on a scale from 1 to 6. One member of the Competition Committee can award a maximum of 42 points to a work.
11. The Competition Committee may postpone awarding points and ask the Author(s) of the Work to submit revisions within 10 working days.
12. The substantive assessment concludes with a ranking list of Competition Works, based on the average score awarded in the individual assessments by members of the Competition Committee. The number of Works selected for peer review is indicated in the Competition Notice.
13. Reviews are prepared by two independent external reviewers. The peer-review process is described in the “Procedure for Peer Reviewing Monographs Submitted for Publication to FRSE Publishing” (Appendix 6 to the FRSE Research and Publishing Department Work Instructions) and is made available on the FRSE website under the “Publishing” tab.
14. Where two or more Works receive the same score on the ranking list, rendering it impossible to select for the next stage the number of Works specified in the Competition Notice, the Organiser may decide to increase the number of awards granted.
15. Where a Work submitted for external peer review does not receive two positive external reviews, a Work placed next on the ranking list referred to in § 5(12) may be selected for external peer review.
16. The Competition Committee monitors the peer-review process. In cases of contradictory conclusions of external reviews, failure to obtain a recommendation from one of the Reviewers to publish a revised Work following the reviews, or in other contentious cases, Where contradictory conclusions are reached in external reviews, where one of the Reviewers does not recommend publication of the revised Work following peer review, or in other contentious cases, the Competition Committee proposes a method of resolution, guided by the principles of the Committee on Publication Ethics (COPE).
17. Completed Assessment Sheets for a Competition Work are not subject to disclosure.
18. The winners of the Competition are the Authors/Co-authors and Scientific Editors of Works that successfully complete the external peer-review process described in the “Procedure for Peer Reviewing Monographs Submitted for Publication to FRSE Publishing”.

COMPETITION AWARDS

§ 6

1. The award in the Competition is the publication of the monograph in print and electronic form, and its promotion online and at events organised by the Foundation for the Development of the Education System. The costs of peer review, publication and promotion of the Works are covered by the Organiser.
2. An additional award is the translation of the monograph into English (in the case of Works prepared in Polish) or into Polish (in the case of Works prepared in English). The translations are published by FRSE Publishing.
3. The Organiser may grant Authors and Scientific Editors of submitted Works honoraria for granting a licence to the work, unless otherwise specified in the Competition Notice.
4. In justified cases, the Organiser, after consulting the Scientific Council of FRSE Publishing, may propose to the Author or Scientific Editor of a Work not awarded in the Competition to publish it outside the FRSE Monographs series. Such cooperation is established on separate terms.
5. Works submitted to the Competition and not selected for publication in any publishing series are not returned to the Authors and are not used for other purposes by the Organiser, and their Authors retain full moral and economic rights to the work.

TERMS AND SCOPE OF THE AGREEMENT

§ 7

1. Following the successful completion of the peer-review process, the Authors/Scientific Editors of the selected Works enter into agreements with the Foundation for the Development of the Education System:
 - a. in the case of single-author and multi-author Works: a licence agreement or agreements granted by the Author/Co-author of the Work, specifying their obligations, deadlines, the extent of the rights granted to use the work, and the amount of any honorarium;
 - b. in the case of edited volumes:
 - i. an agreement with the Scientific Editor of the Work specifying, inter alia, Scientific Editor's obligations, deadlines and the amount of any honorarium;
 - ii. licence agreements with the Authors/Co-authors of individual parts (chapters), specifying the terms of cooperation in preparing their parts of the Work for print, the rules for the use of copyright, and the amount and terms of payment of any honorarium.
2. The Authors are obliged to grant FRSE a licence to the Work covering:
 - a. publication and distribution in all fields of exploitation,
 - b. dissemination and use of the Work or parts thereof for advertising or promotional purposes.
3. Templates of the agreements referred to in § 7(2) are provided by the Organiser upon request by an interested party.

PUBLISHING CYCLE

§ 8

1. Editorial work may commence after the conclusion of agreements with the Authors /Co-authors/Scientific Editor of the Work. Under these agreements, the Organiser provides the Authors of the selected Works with comprehensive editorial and proofreading services, as well as translation, typesetting, printing and distribution within the scope specified in the agreement.
2. The procedure for working on the text is described in the “Publishing Procedures for Scientific Monographs” (Appendix 7 to the FRSE Research and Publishing Department Work Instructions).
3. The FRSE Research and Publishing Department agrees with the Author/Authors of chapters (the Scientific Editor) on the scope of editorial changes, revisions and additions necessary for publication of the Work.
4. The Authors (Scientific Editors) are obliged to cooperate closely in preparing the translation and the final editing of the Work, in particular in adapting the editorial format to the requirements of the FRSE Research and Publishing Department within the deadlines specified in the licence agreement.
5. Any disputes concerning the final form of the work are referred to the Scientific Council of FRSE Publishing, which proposes a method of resolution.
6. In the event that the Author/Authors (Scientific Editor) do not accept the solution proposed in the manner referred to in § 8(5), the Organiser has the right not to accept the work in the form of the Work or a chapter in the Work, which results in a refusal to conclude or a termination of the concluded licence agreements and the obligation to return any honoraria paid.

RIGHTS AND OBLIGATIONS

§ 9

1. The Author/Co-authors declare that they hold the moral and economic copyrights to the works forming part of the Work, and that these do not infringe any moral or economic rights of third parties, and in the case where excerpts from other works already made available to the public are used, the Author(s) assure that such use has taken place within the permitted scope in accordance with Article 29 of the Copyright Act or with the consent of the Creator, if the scope of use exceeds permitted use.
2. The Author/Co-authors/Scientific Editor of the submitted Work is fully liable towards the Organiser and third parties should the Work infringe rights, in particular copyrights and personal rights of third parties.
3. The Authors/Co-authors/Scientific Editors are obliged to participate in promotional and advertising activities organised by FRSE to a mutually agreed extent.

PERSONAL DATA

§ 10

1. Detailed information on the processing of personal data for the purposes of the Competition is set out in the “Information on the Processing of Personal Data for Participants in the Competition “EDUinspirations Science – FRSE Monographs”.
2. Where a licence agreement is concluded, the rules for processing personal data on its basis will be included in the agreement.

FINAL PROVISIONS

§ 11

1. The Organiser shall not liable for events that prevent or significantly impede the proper conduct of the Competition, in particular fortuitous events, an epidemic, restrictions imposed by public authorities, force majeure.
2. The Organiser reserves the right to amend the provisions of the Regulations. Amendments to the Regulations will be made public on the Organiser’s website.
3. The Competition is not subject to the provisions of the Act of 19 November 2009 on Gambling Games (consolidated text, Journal of Laws of 2024, item 595, as amended).
4. The Organiser shall not be liable for any claims by third parties arising from infringement of intellectual property rights, including failure to comply with the provisions of the Copyright Act.
5. Where a breach of the provisions of the Regulations by the Author/Authors or the Scientific Editor is identified, the Organiser may exclude them from participation in the Competition, including by terminating the licence agreements.
6. The Director General of FRSE has the right to invalidate the Competition results without stating reasons. The decisions of the Director General are final and do not require justification.
7. The Regulations and any amendments to the Regulations enter into force on the date of their adoption and publication on the Organiser’s website.
8. The invalidity of any provision of the Regulations does not render the entire Regulations invalid. Where any provision of the Regulations is legally declared invalid or is contrary to a generally applicable provision of law, the relevant generally applicable provision of law shall apply in its place.