

RESEARCH IMPACT NARRATIVES

2nd Edition of the Challenge

REGULATION

Preamble

NOVA University Lisbon (NOVA), as a public Higher Education Institution, has the mission of serving society at a local, regional and global level, by advancing and disseminating knowledge and understanding between cultures, societies and people, through teaching and excellent research and service provision supported by a strong sense of community.

Thus, scientific research, whether fundamental or applied, is one of the fundamental pillars of NOVA, with a potential impact on all aspects of society, both academically, socially, environmentally, culturally and economically. More and more, decisions, whether in a political, business or even individual context, are based on the best science produced, which requires Universities to prepare and encourage researchers to communicate the impact of their research in a language that is clear and accessible to all. Taking into account this transformative potential of scientific research, it is extremely important that it is properly communicated and understood by society.

In turn, Research and Innovation Funding agencies, both national and European, have placed increasing emphasis on the importance of research impact. Also at European level, there is a clear stimulus for the adoption of assessment methodologies that are simultaneously more qualitative, robust and integrated, as exemplified by COARA - Coalition for Advancing Research Assessment, to which NOVA and the Foundation for Science and Technology are initial signatories.

In this context, NOVA challenges its researchers to present the impact of the research they have produced, and demonstrate to society that the funding allocated to them has not only contributed to the advancement of knowledge, but also translates into a multitude of impacts that may include the social, environmental, political, cultural, technological, economic impact or the improvement of the health and quality of life of the population.

Article 1

Scope

1. The objective of the Research Impact Narratives Challenge is to provide researchers with the possibility of writing narratives that communicate the impact of their research, and its direct consequences for society.
2. The challenge aims to encourage Research Impact Narratives among those presented by Professors and Researchers affiliated with any of the Academic Units of NOVA, regardless of their area or discipline of action.



3. All science-based projects or initiatives, within the field of research, with significant associated impact, are admitted, provided they meet the admission conditions described in this Regulation.
4. Each lead applicant can only submit one application, and the same narrative may refer to different projects developed by the research group that have contributed to the described impact.

Article 2 Deadlines

1. The deadline for submission of impact narratives will run between April 24 and June 7, 2024.
2. The communication of the results to the candidates will be made until July 31, 2024.
3. The prizes will be awarded at the NOVA Science Day 2024 Event, on a date to be communicated in due course.

Article 3 Conditions of Admission

1. To be admitted to the competition, applications must take into account the following:
 - a) Fully filling out the Application Form, which can be obtained and duly submitted at www.unl.pt (“Research” tab).
 - b) The Application Form must be completed in English.
 - c) All relevant material must be included in the Application Form, and additional material beyond what is requested in the Application Form will not be accepted.
 - d) By participating in the Research Impact Narratives Challenge, applicants are authorizing NOVA to publish their narrative(s), in whole or in part, on its website(s) and to use it in any other promotional or marketing material.
 - e) It is the candidates’ responsibility to ensure that the research team and all its collaborators (involved in the research) are recognized in the narrative and are informed of their application to this competition.
 - f) It is the responsibility of candidates to be aware of all the competition requirements.

Article 4 Awards

1. Up to five pecuniary prizes may be awarded to the narratives with the highest score attributed by the evaluation jury (see articles 6 and 7), in the amount of 2000 euros (two thousand euros) each.
2. The prizes will be given by impact category, including:
 - a) Social Impact;
 - b) Economic and/or Technological Impact;
 - c) Impact on Public Policies;



- d) Environmental Impact;
- e) Other types of impact (e.g., Cultural, Academic, or in the Health sector).
3. If there are no applications for a given category, or if the jury concludes that none of the narratives in that category meet the requirements for an award, the jury will decide, based on the quality and evaluation of the narratives, whether the prize intended for that category should be moved to another impact category.
4. The pecuniary prize may be transferred to the principal investigator personally (who will be responsible for distributing the funds among the team associated with the narrative), or to a cost centre of their respective Research Unit, to be used for R&D activities or community outreach.
5. The choice regarding the previous point must be communicated during the process of transferring the pecuniary award.
6. Each of the up to five narratives with the highest score awarded by the jury may also be entitled to:
 - a. The publication of the narrative on the institutional website of NOVA;
 - b. Due prominence in the NOVA Science magazine;
 - c. The production of a video, under consideration by the NOVA audio-visual team, for dissemination at the NOVA Science Day and publication on NOVA's institutional website;
 - d. To the guidance from the Research and Innovation Support Office at the Rectorate to enhance the presented narrative.
7. Narratives that are above a certain score threshold to be defined by the jury will be published on the institutional website.

Article 5

Other considerations about the Awards

1. The amount defined for the monetary prizes must be borne in full by NOVA.
2. The Jury reserves the right not to award any prize if none of the submitted works meet the quality requirements or comply with the rules of this Regulation.
3. Honourable mentions may be awarded, to be defined by the Jury.
4. The number of monetary awards to be given as mentioned in article 4, point 1, can be adjusted based on the availability of funds and the evaluation and merit of the narratives in the competition.

Article 6

Jury

1. The Jury of the Challenge will be made up of two members of NOVA's Rectoral team, one of them being the President, and a minimum of two and a maximum of three members external to NOVA, who are specialists in the area of research impact and science communication.
2. The deliberations of the Jury are taken by a simple majority of the present members, with the President having only the right to cast a tie-breaking vote, if necessary.



3. The President is responsible for coordinating the work of the Jury, as well as ensuring its representation and announcing the winners.
4. The Jury will decide on the admissibility of the applications received.
5. Jury decisions are not subject to appeal.

Article 7 Assessment

1. Eligible applications are scored from 1 to 5 (highest best) considering the following criteria:
 - a) Rationale: detailed disclosure of the impact of the research produced, including identification of beneficiaries and involvement with them (40%)
 - b) Reach and Meaning: demonstrate the reach (geographic or numeric) of the impact and the meaning of the impact for those benefitting (why the impact is important to them and how they have or will benefit). Claims of reach and meaning must be supported by independent evidence (40%).
 - c) Effectiveness and clarity of the narrative: clarity in communicating the impact or potential impact (20%)
2. The Prize is awarded to the narratives that obtain the sum of the highest scores, as described in article 4.
3. NOVA reserves the right to edit, with the consent of the respective researchers, the submitted narratives to guarantee the quality of their publication.

Article 8 Disclosure

NOVA University Lisbon will ensure that the winning narratives are publicized as widely as possible.

Article 9 Final dispositions

1. This Regulation is in force for a period of one (1) year.
2. The promoters of this initiative and the Jury of the Challenge will make every effort to ensure that this initiative meets the highest standards of quality and accuracy, namely regarding reliability and objectivity of the information and the respective selection, evaluation and awarding process.
3. Personal data involved in the prize will be collected and processed in accordance with the General Data Regulation (Regulation (EU) No. 2016/679 of the European Parliament and of the Council, of April 27, 2016).
4. Applications must not contain technical, scientific, or other information that may be considered confidential from the point of view of intellectual property protection or personal information that may jeopardize the protection of personal data.
5. This Regulation may be revised when necessary.



Article 10
Doubts and Omissions

Doubts and omissions resulting from the application of this Regulation will be submitted to the Jury for consideration.

Lisbon, April 24, 2024.

