About the Prize

Established as a follow up of the International Year of the Periodic Table of Chemical Elements in 2019, the UNESCO-Russia Mendeleev International Prize in the Basic Sciences was created to foster scientific progress, science popularization and international cooperation in the basic sciences. It also commemorates the remarkable scientific achievements of D. I. Mendeleev, father of the Periodic Table, whose work played a fundamental role in the future of chemistry, physics, biology, astronomy and geochemistry. Mendeleev’s scientific work also contributed to a great extent to what is now termed sustainable development. Mendeleev was also an advocate of women’s education, many of his students came into the history of science.

The Prize is awarded annually to two individual award-winners for their breakthrough discoveries, outstanding innovations and avid promotion of the basic sciences, with potential to impact on future, socio-economic transformation and development of human societies.

The Prize is funded by the Government of the Russian Federation.

2021 marked the first edition of the Award Ceremony for the Prize which is named after Dimitri Mendeleev - a true Renaissance man, with expertise ranging from chemistry to physics via applications such as aeronautics, hydrodynamics and meteorology; and who developed the periodic classification of the elements by arranging them in order of increasing atomic weight. Mendeleev’s discovery of the Periodic Law and the periodic table of chemical elements changed the course of science. Each generation of scientists is “standing on the shoulders of giants,” as Isaac Newton put it, and modern science is largely built on the foundation created by Dimitri Mendeleev.
Members of the Jury

The Jury is composed of seven eminent members that are appointed by the UNESCO Director-General for a two-year period, renewable for a maximum period of six years. These are members of the international scientific community, with a recognized reputation in the area of the basic sciences. They have the responsibility to review the applications and submit their recommendations on the most suitable nominees for the Prize to the Director-General. The jury operates independently without interference from UNESCO, the donor or any other third party, and is only guided in its choice by scientific excellence.

- **Eugenio Coronado Miralles** (Spain)
- **Ana María Cetto Kramis** (Mexico)
- **Tebello Nyokong** (South Africa)
- **Martin Möller** (Germany)
- **Krishna N Ganesh** (India)
- **Grigory Vladimirovich Trubnikov** (Russian Federation)
- **Samia Charfi Kaddour** (Tunisia)

Nomination and selection procedure

**Eligibility Criteria**

The Prize is awarded to candidates whose scientific achievements contribute to socio-economic transformation and impact development on a regional or global scale, based on:

- Excellence in research in the fields of basic sciences;
- Basic sciences education and popularization;
- International or regional cooperation in the basic sciences.

There is no age limit for the candidates.

Candidatures of women scientists are highly encouraged.
Selection criteria by the Jury

The selection criteria of the candidates are the following:

A. The candidate’s outstanding contribution to/achievement in research and innovation in the basic sciences in the form of a published communication, basic sciences education and dissemination;

B. The impact of the candidate’s research on the current state of the relevant scientific fields: chemistry, physics, mathematics and biology (number, quality and impact of publications, conference presentations, patents, impact on society);

C. The candidate’s visibility and his/her recognition by peers within his/her discipline through multi-stakeholders’ collaborations or publications conducive to scientific innovation and discoveries in basic sciences for sustainable development and achievements in scholar and university books;

D. The recognition of the candidate’s commitments to basic sciences and to the United Nations 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development more broadly.

Nominees will be assessed for their global impact in the four Basic Sciences disciplines indicated in the Prize Statutes (chemistry, physics, mathematics and biology).

The Prize cannot be awarded to the same person more than once.

Who can submit nominations?

The nominations can be submitted by the following entities:

- Governments of Member States, in consultation with their National Commissions
- Non-governmental organizations maintaining official partnerships with UNESCO and active in relevant fields covered by the Prize
- UNESCO Chairs
- Category 2 Centres under the auspices of UNESCO
- International scientific unions
- Universities

No self-nomination shall be considered.

How to submit the nominations

1. Nominations can only be submitted electronically through an online template.
2. Nominations must be completed in full in English or French.
3. Nominations MUST be submitted within the outlined deadline.
4. Nominations that are incomplete or received after the deadline shall not be considered.

Selection process

The International Mendeleev Prize’s Team at the UNESCO secretariat reviews all applications received before the deadline and transmits the eligible applications to the Jury of the Prize.

The Jury meets once a year to assess the applications.

The UNESCO Director-General selects the winners based on the assessment and recommendation of the Jury of the Prize.

The Prize shall be awarded by the UNESCO Director-General or her representative, to the individual winners during an official ceremony held for that purpose in alternation at UNESCO premises at Headquarters in Paris and in the Russian Federation.

Contact information

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UNESCO-RUSSIA MENDELEEV INTERNATIONAL PRIZE IN THE BASIC SCIENCES