



Manfred Rosenberger prize for the best Masters thesis on military ethics

Regulations as of September 2026

Aims

1. The aims of the prize are:

- i. to promote an active involvement in the study & application of military ethics, human rights and humanitarian law in a particular crisis area as well as in the home country.
- ii. to promote a dialogue on common European values;
- iii. to publish the winning theses as a cahier (paper copy) and on-line in two/three European languages to promote the accessibility of studies in military ethics.
- iv. to promote participation at EuroISME annual conferences by military academies and civilian universities;
- v. to promote EuroISME as a relevant player in the field of military ethics.

Eligibility

2. Eligibility is limited to students' theses written in pursuit of an Academic Master's Degree (Masters of Arts (MA), Master of Sciences (MSc) or Master of Theology (MTheol) for example), and which discuss military ethics. A thesis written in pursuit of a research masters or a Master of Philosophy (MPhil) is not eligible. A submission on any topic concerning military ethics is eligible.

3. A thesis must have received a minimum of B+ ('very good') from an academic tutor/ethics professor at an European¹ military academy or civilian university and comply with the eligibility criteria mentioned in these Regulations.

4. A submitted thesis must have been written either in the academic year in which the prize is awarded, or in the two previous academic years.

Nominations

5. Submissions will only be accepted based on a nomination from a European military academy, a European civilian university or European higher education institution.

6. Each submission must contain:

i. the name, age and nationality of the author, and, if applicable, the rank and branch of the Armed Forces concerned (Navy, Army, Air Force, Marines, Military Police, etc);

ii. contact details

- name and address of the military academy civilian university or higher education institution which formally nominates the submitted thesis;
- name and contact details of the tutor submitting the thesis; in case the thesis concerned has been tutored by more than one tutor, the submission shall be made by the first tutor; .

iii. the grade awarded to the thesis concerned by the military academy or university, preferably accompanied by a reasoning by the tutor why this grade was given;

iv. a statement concerning scientific integrity, confirming that the thesis has been written by the named author (see below, article 8);

v. a statement on the year when the submission has been successfully completed.

7. All submissions must be made in accordance with EuroISME's template for submissions.

Note: the template available on EuroISME website at the prize page.

Scientific Integrity

8. The EuroISME Prize is an award for the best Academic Master's thesis on military ethics. As such it is essential that the highest academic standards of integrity are adhered to. Each submission must be accompanied with an assurance, from the military academy or university concerned, that the thesis has been written by the named author. It is expected

¹ For the purposes of these Regulations, the term "European" will be interpreted in a geographical sense: it concerns the area ranging from Spitsbergen in the North to Gibraltar in the South, and in the West from Iceland, and, in the East, to the Ural Mountains and the Northern coast of the Black Sea, and, in the South East, limited by the Bosphorus and the Eastern Mediterranean Sea.

that each submission will have been assessed by plagiarism detection software before being submitted. Each thesis short-listed by the Prize Jury will be assessed by plagiarism detection software to ensure that the integrity of the Prize is maintained. Any use of inappropriate language, obscenities or insults within a thesis will result in a submission being rejected by the Prize Jury.

Format

9. Submissions should be offered in the following format:

- i. as a PDF document;
- ii. have a word count between 9.000 to 20.000 words²;
- iii. submitted in the French, German or English³ language;
- iv. adhere to an academically recognised method of referencing, provided it is used consistently. The referencing method of OSCOLA is preferred, because the prize winning theses, when published, will have to be referenced by means of OSCOLA.

Submissions

10. Submissions should be sent to secretariat.ethicsprize@euroisme.eu All submissions will receive a confirmation of receipt from the Secretariat.

Deadline

11. The deadline for submissions will be November 30th of the year prior to the awarding of the prize. The deadline will be announced on the website of EuroISME. The jury may, at its discretion, extend the deadline, provided it is announced on EuroISME's website.

12. Submissions received after the deadline will not be considered eligible.

The Jury

13. The EuroISME Prize Jury is academically independent and will accept no instructions from external parties, such as the EuroISME Board of Directors or national governments, on their deliberations on the theses submitted. The deliberations of the Prize Jury will be strictly confidential.

² Word count includes foot/end notes but not the bibliography.

³ EuroISME may facilitate a provisional translation of a submission made in French or German, *if and when* a submission in these languages reaches the second stage of the assessment process as described in article 21. For details, see the annex to these Regulations.

14. The Prize Jury will consist of European experts in the field of military ethics. To avoid possible conflicts of interest, no nation will be represented more than once within the Prize Jury.

15. The Prize Jury will adjudicate on any infractions of the Regulations and/or its Annex. Serious infractions may result in disqualification.

16. The decisions of the Prize Jury are final.

17. Military academies or universities that submit a thesis for consideration, will receive a decision by the Secretariat once the deliberations of the Prize Jury have been concluded, but no later than three weeks before EuroISME's annual conference.

18. The Prize Jury will decide annually on its policies and internal rules in consultation with the EuroISME Board of Directors. The jury will announce the winner(s); in principle this will be done at a ceremony during EuroISME's annual conference.

19. EuroISME's Board of Directors may appoint one or more jury members. Members of the jury are appointed for a term of three years, which may be renewed by EuroISME's Board of Directors.

20. The jury will consist of a minimum of six and a maximum of nine members – the advisors of the jury for the French language and the German language not included. The names of the members of the jury and their advisors are listed on EuroISME's website.

Procedure for assessment

21 (1). The assessment of submissions shall take place in two stages – the initial stage and the final stage. In accordance with article 9, submissions for the initial stage may be made in either the French, German or English language. Two members of the jury, or appointed advisors thereof, will assess the submissions and draft a shortlist of those submissions which merit a provisional translation into English, in order to be considered in the second stage by the full jury.

21 (2) The procedure for the provisional translations mentioned in § 1 is described in the Annex to these Regulations.

21 (3). In the initial assessment process, a thesis may be assessed by a jury member from the same country as the author, although an assessment by jury members from other countries is preferred. Once a shortlist of theses has been established, a jury member from the same country as the author will participate in the second stage, in the final decision-making process, but will have no voting rights in the final decision of the Prize Jury.

21 (4). In case a thesis is submitted by a tutor who is also a member of the jury, then this jury member shall inform the chairman of the jury immediately; this jury member shall withdraw himself/herself from the assessment of that particular thesis. Upon receipt of this information, the chairman of the jury shall appoint an advisor of the jury – as mentioned in Article 20 – to act as alternate jury member for the assessment of that thesis.

21 (5). All assessments in the first and second stage remain strictly confidential.

21 (6). Submissions which are shortlisted for the second stage may receive an honourable citation at the prize-winning ceremony, which will be posted on EuroISME's website. The submissions so honoured, will be posted on EuroISME's website after the prize winner(s) has (have) been announced by the jury during the ceremony mentioned in article 27.

21 (7). The full jury will decide which theses have been awarded the first and second prizes, or an honourable citation. If the jury finds that the submissions are not of sufficient quality, it may decide not to award a first and/or second prize.

21 (8). In cases where these Regulations are silent on issues of the acceptance of submissions, as well as the assessment of submissions, the jury will decide on its jurisdiction.

The Secretariat

22. During the competition, all correspondence to and from authors of submissions and their nominating institutions will be conducted through the Secretariat. Where necessary, the Secretariat shall maintain confidentiality.

The Prize

23. There will be a prize available for the best thesis submitted.

24 (1). The author of the best thesis will receive:

- ii. travel and hotel costs to attend the EuroISME conference and prize giving ceremony to and from a European point of departure;

***Note:** travel and hotel reservations will be made by the Secretariat.*

- iii. the opportunity to present his/her award-winning thesis at an annual conference of EuroISME during the ceremony;

- iv. the opportunity to publish their thesis on EuroISME's website, whereby the thesis, if it was submitted in French or German, will be corrected or translated by a translator;

24 (2) In exceptional cases the jury will award a second prize.

25. The military academy, university or higher education institution submitting a prize winning thesis will receive a citation and plaque. The citation will appear on the EuroISME website.

Publicity and publications

26. In consultation with the Prize Jury, the Board of Directors will organise the prize ceremony at EuroISME's annual conference. It may also draft a press release.

27 (1). By submitting a thesis to EuroISME, the author consents to the fact that his or her thesis may be published by EuroISME and/or its contracted publisher in accordance with article 27(3), if it receives an honourable citation or becomes a winning thesis. EuroISME will subsequently hold the copyright in conjunction with the author, or, respectively, the nominating institution.

27 (2). Submitted theses may be illustrated with photographs, graphs, maps, drawings, audio, video, 3D models, etc, of third parties, provided written permission has been secured by the author prior to publication by EuroISME and its publisher. It is the sole responsibility of the author to ensure that all necessary permissions have been received before the thesis is published. Images should have a minimum resolution of 300 dpi. Maps and graphs (line drawings) should have a minimum resolution of 600 dpi.

27 (3). EuroISME may enter into a contract with a publisher to publish and distribute a winning thesis in accordance with custom for academic works.

27 (4). The authors whose thesis will be published shall, if necessary, adapt their manuscript to the OSCOLA referencing method and additional guidelines for publication, such as an academic summary, a table of contents and a short list of recommended reading. Such guidelines will be set by EuroISME.

Note: These guidelines can be found on EuroISME's website, on the "Publications" page, where a document entitled *Guidelines for Manuscripts* can be found.

27 (5). Authors are required to proof-read the type-set proofs of their manuscript immediately prior to publication, within a time-frame set by the Secretariat in consultation with the Executive Directors.

28. EuroISME may make photographs, audio or video recordings of the prize ceremony and it reserves the right to publish these photographs and recordings in accordance with its statutes.

29. Once the recipients of first and second prize, or of an honourable citation, and their nominating institutions, have been informed by the Secretariat of the decision of the jury pursuant to article 17, they shall not disclose this decision of the jury to third-parties, including the press or the social media. Infractions may result in disqualification. The formal public announcement of prize winner(s) shall be made by the jury in accordance with article 18.

30. EuroISME's Board of Directors may invite the press to attend the prize-winning ceremony. The prize winners may be requested to field questions from the press.

Amendments

31. After consultation with the jury, the Board of Directors may amend the Regulations and/or its Annex.

ANNEX to EuroISME's prize regulations concerning submissions made in French, German and other languages

Version: July 2019

EuroISME is a tri-lingual organisation, with French, German and English as its official languages. Theses submitted in any of these languages are, other conditions permitting, eligible. However, with a jury of seven different nationalities, English is the only language which the members of the jury have in common. In order to accommodate submissions made in French and German, the following procedure has been established:

Article I: Submissions made in French, German and other languages

Submissions in French and German shall be made in accordance with the usual procedure, as mentioned in the Articles 5 through 7 of the Regulations. It shall be addressed to the Secretariat of the jury at secretariat.ethicsprize@euroisme.eu

Note: Authors of theses written in other languages than the three official languages of EuroISME, are advised to arrange for a translation themselves, before submitting. The automated translation facility DeepL Pro supports, among others, the following languages: Spanish, Italian, Dutch and Russian.

Article II (1): Provisional translation facility offered by EuroISME

With a view to facilitate the submissions of theses submitted in French and German, the jury shall select in accordance with Article 21 of the Regulations, the theses which will receive a provisional translation, to be organised by EuroISME, subject to agreement by the author thereof.

(2): The maximum number of theses submitted in French or German which the jury may select in accordance with Article II (1), is five.

(3): The five selected theses will be, after permission has been received by the Secretariat from the respective authors, submitted by EuroISME to the automated

translation facility DeepL Pro. The draft automated translation will subsequently be reviewed under the auspices of EuroISME. Both the submission to DeepL and the review will be free of charge to, both, the author and the nominating institution mentioned in Article 5 of the Regulations.

Article III (1): Authorisation of a provisional translation

The provisional translation reviewed under the auspices of EuroISME as mentioned in Article II(3), will be offered to the author for revision and authorisation. The authorised provisional translation shall be re-submitted to the full jury. The responsibility for the authorised provisional translation will be borne solely by the author.

Note: Authors are advised, when reviewing a draft translation, to check in particular: 1) words which have a dual meaning in one language, but not in another; 2) jargon; 3) titles of books, reports, journals etc, such as those mentioned in the footnotes and/or endnotes.;4) quotations from third languages (e.g. Latin) where a professional translation of the quote concerned is likely to exist in literature . In the case of 3) and 4), the page references will also need to be checked, as the pagination is likely to vary from one language to another.

Article III (2):

The author of a thesis selected in accordance with Article II, is not obligated to make use of the translation process offered by EuroISME. The author may make his own translation arrangements should he consider this preferable. Such arrangements will be, however, at the author's expense and under his own responsibility. Neither will such arrangements be a cause for an alteration of the time-frame mentioned in the Article V and VI of this Annex. Any translation made through the arrangements of the author, and which are received by the Secretariat will be assumed to have been authorised by the author.

Article IV: Request for a thesis in the original language, if necessary

If a translated thesis is submitted, the Secretariat may request the author to submit the thesis in the original language as well, should the jury decide that this is necessary for a proper assessment of the thesis. Such requests shall be complied with.

Article V: Time-frame

Without prejudice to Article 21 of the Regulations, the Secretariat will inform, on behalf of the jury, the author of the details of the time-frame for submitting or re-submitting translated theses, or, respectively, theses written in an original language. Such information is binding on the author and the nominating institution mentioned in Article 5 of the Regulations.

Article VI: Assessments in accordance with Article 21 of the Regulations

If the author has made a *timely* authorisation and re-submission of the theses concerned, the provisionally translated thesis will be assessed by the full jury in order to compete for EuroISME's prize. If a timely authorisation and re-submission have not been received by the Secretariat, the jury may, with a view to Article 15 of the Regulations, decide to disqualify the submission concerned.

Article VII (1): Checking the English of a winning thesis

The authorised provisional translation mentioned in Article III (1) shall be of sufficient quality in order to allow the jury to assess the substance of the thesis concerned. Should a provisionally translated thesis win first or second prize, then it will be checked by a professional translator, in order to bring the grammar thereof up to the level of publishable Queen's English. This will be done at EuroISME's expense.

Article VII (2)

The winning thesis, thus checked by a professional translator, shall be submitted to the author for authorisation, should the author consider this preferable. With a view to Article 27(5) of the Regulations, concerning the publication of a thesis which has won first or second prize, the Secretariat may, after consultation with the Executive Director(s) of EuroISME, set a time-frame for such authorisation.

Article VIII: Outstanding issues

Issues concerning the translation of theses, which are not covered by the current Annex, shall be decided upon by the jury.