
INTERNATIONAL SCIENTIFIC CONFERENCE 2026

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AND POLICIES: REALITIES AND PROSPECTS
Global Uncertainty, Economic Transformations and Technological Change
23–24 November 2026, Sofia

**Special Anniversary Session “70 Years of the *Economic Thought* Journal” for
Early-Career Researchers, Doctoral Students and Postdoctoral Researchers**

On the occasion of the 70th anniversary of the *Economic Thought* journal, a special scientific session for early-career researchers, doctoral students and postdoctoral researchers will be carried out on 24 November 2026 within the framework of the Conference.

The aim of the session is to encourage the research exchange among early-career researchers by providing a forum for presentations and discussions of their scientific results.

Papers on the conference theme are accepted that address significant scientific and practical challenges, present research results and generate bold and defensible author's theses.

Participation in the session is open to doctoral students, postdoctoral students and young scientists according to the Law on the Promotion of Scientific Research and Innovation.¹

The submitted papers will be evaluated by a special jury composed of established scholars and members of the Editorial Board of the *Economic Thought* journal.

The best scientific papers will be awarded prizes and certificates. Their authors will be given the opportunity to publish their research in the *Economic Thought* journal following a successful peer-review process.

Registration <https://forms.gle/S8fhP3pX453DACgu9>

¹ Supplementary Provisions § 1. For the purposes of this Act: 3. "Early-career researcher" means a person who carries out research and educational activities at a higher education institution or a research organisation after obtaining the first higher education qualification degree of Master, but for no more than 10 years after obtaining that degree. This period shall not include the time during which the person is on leave due to pregnancy and childbirth, childcare, or temporary incapacity for work lasting more than 6 consecutive months, and is objectively unable to carry out research and educational activities.

4. "Doctoral student" means a person who holds the higher education qualification degree of Master and is in the process of obtaining the educational and scientific degree of Doctor (PhD).

5. "Postdoctoral researcher" means a person who has obtained the educational and scientific degree of Doctor (PhD), but for no more than 8 years after obtaining that degree. This period shall not include the time during which the person is on leave due to pregnancy and childbirth, childcare, or temporary incapacity for work lasting more than 6 consecutive months, and is objectively unable to carry out research and educational activities.

Evaluation Criteria for Scientific Papers Submitted by Early-Career Researchers, Doctoral Students and Postdoctoral Researchers

- 1. Scientific Relevance and Significance of the Topic – up to 20 points**
The evaluation considers the extent to which the topic corresponds to current economic challenges, as well as the scientific novelty and significance of the issue addressed.
- 2. Scientific Contribution and Originality – up to 25 points**
The evaluation considers the presence of new ideas, original approaches, authorial analyses, and contributions to the development of economic theory and practice.
- 3. Methodology and Analytical Soundness – up to 20 points**
The evaluation considers the selection and application of scientific methods, the quality of the analysis, the use of reliable data, and the soundness of the conclusions.
- 4. Practical Applicability of the Results – up to 15 points**
The evaluation considers the potential of the research for application in economic policy, business, or public practice.
- 5. Quality of the Presentation and Academic Discussion – up to 10 points**
The evaluation considers the structure of the presentation, clarity of delivery, compliance with the allotted presentation time, and the ability to defend the research findings with well-founded arguments.
- 6. Quality of the Written Paper and Scientific Style – up to 10 points**
The evaluation considers logical coherence, academic writing style, proper referencing, and the technical formatting of the paper.

Maximum score: 100 points.