



## CEREPS Early Career Award for Research in Physical Education and School Sport 2026 – Call for Entries

CEREPS invites applications for the Early Career Award (ECA), which recognises promising candidates whose work contributes to research in school sport, physical education, and physical activity in school contexts.

The award aims to encourage people who are still exploring their academic and professional pathways and to introduce them to the mission, values, and European network of CEREPS.

### Who can apply?

- The candidate holds as a minimum a Bachelor with honours and is no more than three years past PhD graduation.
- Working in areas related to CEREPS:
  - Physical Education and School Sport
  - Physical Activity in school settings (lessons, recess, or afterschool programmes)
  - Applied, practice-oriented, or policy-relevant school sport research

Applicants do not need an extensive publication record. Work based on Master theses, pilot studies, unpublished projects, or innovative ideas is welcome.

### What does the award offer?

#### Up to three awardees will receive:

- Invitation to the CEREPS Summit 2026 (29/06 – 1/07/26, Münster, Germany)
- Full board and accommodation at the conference venue
- A 15-minute invited poster-presentation at the Summit
- Opportunity for peer-reviewed publication (paper based on presented poster) in the Summit report
- One-year CEREPS membership and access to its European network
- Only one will receive a full seat in the CEREPS working group of *Nominations and Awards*
- The winner of the Award will receive reimbursement of travel expenses and an Award Prize of 500,- Euro.

### What are we looking for?

Applications will be assessed on:

- Clarity and quality of the idea or study
- Relevance to school sport, PE, or physical activity in school contexts
- Applied value and potential impact (educational, societal, or policy-related)
- Originality and thoughtful engagement with practice

Evaluation will be sensitive to different academic traditions, institutional contexts, and career stages, in line with CEREPS' commitment to inclusivity and diversity.

### What to submit

Please send **one PDF file** including:

1. **Abstract (max. 500 words, English)**
  - Research question or idea
  - Approach or methodology
  - Relevance and potential contribution
2. **Short CV**
  - Education and current status
  - Relevant academic or practice-related activities
  - No photo required
3. **One letter of recommendation**

(Optional) Up to **two related publications** (published or accepted within the last two years), if available.

### Deadline and submission

- **Deadline:** 15 May 2026
- **Submission:** by email to [eca@cereps.eu](mailto:eca@cereps.eu)

### Selection process

A European jury will review applications and propose up to three awardees to the CEREPS Executive Board (two-step process of nomination). Awardees must commit to active participation in the CEREPS Summit.



CEREPS (Conseil Européen des Recherches en Education Physique et Sportive/ The European Research Council for Physical Education and School Sport) is legally registered by asbl law (2023) in the state of Luxembourg. 1.3 the registered **office** of the Association; 1.4 the Association's number from the X 1.5 the words "register of legal persons" or the abbreviation "RPM", followed by the indication of the court of the seat of the association;  
<https://www.cereps.eu>

Status as of April 21<sup>st</sup>, 2026 (prepared by the working group *Nominations and Awards*: Swantje Scharenberg (de), Cate Pesce (it), Efstathios Christodoulidis (cy), Sebastian Brückner (de), Francis Ries (es))