

Direction Générale du Centre Ouest Africain de Formation et d'Etudes Bancaires
Direction de la Recherche et des Partenariats

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Frequently asked questions (FAQ)- Abdoulaye FADIGA Prize

I. About the Prize

1. What actions does the Central Bank implement to promote research?

Answer :

- The PAF is a key part of the Central Bank of West African States (BCEAO)'s research policy, which supports the development of research activities within the West African Economic and Monetary Union (WAEMU). The Prize rewards, every two years, the most deserving study on economic, monetary, and financial issues relating to the development of WAEMU member States and of definite interest to the BCEAO. Thus, it provides a framework for emulation among researchers, with a view to significantly improving the quality of scientific output within the Union.
- The BCEAO Economic and Monetary Review (REM) contributes to the regular dissemination of research work. It provides economists, including those from WAEMU countries, with a platform of reference for publishing their research work.
- The BCEAO has set up a database of economic and financial variables (EDEN), freely accessible to the public via the BCEAO website at the following address: <https://edenpub.bceao.int/>.
- The Central Bank has also established a program to strengthen the skills of young researchers on methodologies in economics, enabling them to improve the scientific and editorial quality of the articles for submission to the Abdoulaye FADIGA Prize and the Economic and Monetary Review (REM).
- Through its visiting research program, the BCEAO welcomes experienced researchers working at various academic levels in universities and research centers.

2. Why to award the “Abdoulaye FADIGA Prize”?

Answer: *The “Abdoulaye FADIGA Prize” aims to encourage economic research in the member countries of the West African Economic and Monetary Union (WAEMU), namely Benin, Burkina Faso, Côte d’Ivoire, Guinea-Bissau, Mali, Niger, Senegal, and Togo. It pays tribute to Mr. Abdoulaye FADIGA, the first African Governor of the Central Bank of West African States (BCEAO), from 1975 to 1988. During his terms of office, he oversaw the transfer of the BCEAO headquarters to Dakar, promoted the recruitment of African professionals, and created the West African Center for Banking Studies (COFEB) in 1977 to train bank staff members in the region.*

3. What is the purpose of the Abdoulaye FADIGA Prize?

Answer: *The purpose of the PAF is to promote economic research within WAEMU by highlighting the work of young researchers. Winning the Prize can be an opportunity to boost the recipients' careers, both in academia and in institutions.*

4. What are the main changes for the 2026 edition?

Answer: *The key change for the 2026 edition is that articles written in English will be accepted, in addition to those written in French or Portuguese. Furthermore, studies written in French or Portuguese must include an English abstract.*

5. How frequently is the Prize awarded?

Answer: *The Prize is held every other year, on a biannual basis.*

II. Terms and conditions of participation

6. Who can participate in the Abdoulaye FADIGA Prize?

Answer:

- *The Abdoulaye FADIGA Prize is open to all researchers in economics who are nationals of one of the eight (8) member States of the West African Economic and Monetary Union (WAEMU).*
 - *Candidates must be 45 years or younger on December 31st of the year in which the Prize is awarded, for example 2026 for the current edition.*
 - *Economics researchers are those who can provide proof of a minimum Baccalaurate (high school Diploma) +5 degree in economics or other related fields, such as statistics applied to economics, econometrics, and finance, during the year in which the Prize is awarded.*
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7. Do candidates have to be citizens of a WAEMU country?

Answer: Yes, the Abdoulaye FADIGA Prize is exclusively reserved for researchers who are citizens of WAEMU countries, regardless of their country of residence.

8. Can a researcher submit work that has already been published?

Answer: No! The study submitted for the PAF must be original, meaning that it can neither have already won an award, nor have been published previously or be in the process of publication, nor have been simultaneously submitted for publication in another journal, including in the form of a working paper, within any institution.

9. Can a memoir or thesis be submitted for the Prize?

Answer: No! Memoirs and theses do not generally have the structure of a scientific article. Therefore, they cannot be considered as scientific articles eligible for the Prize.

10. Are group applications allowed?

Answer: Yes! The study can be individual or conducted by a team of researchers.

11. Which fields are eligible?

Answer: Submissions for the Abdoulaye FADIGA Prize must relate to economics or related fields, including applied statistics in economics, econometrics, and finance.

For the 2026 edition, eligible themes are the following :

- Macroeconomic issues related to monetary, financial, and fiscal policies, public debt, and the coordination of monetary and fiscal policies ;
- Financial stability and micro and macro prudential policies in the West African Monetary Union (WAMU) ;
- Financing of the WAEMU economies: private sector financing, green, inclusive, and sustainable finance, and the impact of foreign direct investment ;
- Regional economic integration, including monetary cooperation programs and the implementation of the African Continental Free Trade Area Agreement ;
- Challenges posed by rising protectionism, economic fragmentation, and trade wars on the economies of the Union and their economic policy implications ;
- Climate change and associated risks: economic and financial impacts for WAEMU countries, greening of monetary policy ;

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- *Financial inclusion and innovation, digitalization: opportunities and risks related to cryptocurrencies, mobile money, central bank digital currencies, Fintechs ;*
 - *Impacts of exogenous shocks: volatility of commodity prices, the COVID-19 pandemic, the war in Ukraine, insecurity, and terrorism ;*
 - *Any other topic of scientific or political interest to the BCEAO and the WAEMU economies.*

III. Application procedures

12. How do I submit my application for the Abdoulaye FADIGA Prize?

Answer: To submit an application for the Abdoulaye FADIGA Prize, the application must be sent to the BCEAO via the dedicated IT platform on the BCEAO or COFEB website, or by email to the following address: prixabdoulayefadiga@bceao.int.

13. What is the deadline for submitting applications for the 2026 edition?

Answer : The deadline for submitting applications is August 31, 2026.

14. What documents must be included in the application file?

Answer : The documents required for each candidate's application are:

- a duly completed and signed application form,
- a complete study, with a summary of no more than 500 words,
- an up-to-date CV,
- a copy of a valid identity document,
- the signed anti-plagiarism charter,
- the databases and econometric codes/programs used.

15. In which languages can the studies be submitted?

Answer : *Studies may be written in French, English, or Portuguese.*

16. Does the application have to be exclusively submitted online?

Answer: *Yes! The application must be submitted exclusively electronically, through the dedicated IT platform on the BCEAO or COFEB website or via the email address provided (prixabdoulayefadiga@bceao.int).*

17. Where should applications be submitted?

Answer: Applications should be submitted to the BCEAO via the dedicated IT platform on the BCEAO or COFEB website or sent to the following email address: prixabdoulayefadiga@bceao.int

18. How do I know if my application has been received?

Answer: You will receive confirmation of receipt.

IV. Evaluation et selection

19. How are the papers evaluated?

Answer : The papers are evaluated by an independent Reading Committee, made of internationally renowned professors in economics, with particular emphasis on the following criteria:

- Originality of the research;
- Methodological rigor;
- Relevance of the results and recommendations for West African economies and the Central Bank.

20. Who are the members of the Abdoulaye FADIGA Prize Reading Committee?

Answer : *The Reading Committee is made of internationally renowned Professors of economics from Universities in North America, Europe, and Africa.*

21. What are the evaluation criteria for the research?

Answer : The research is evaluated according to scientific standards, based on the following criteria:

- the originality of the research;
- the methodological rigor;
- the relevance of the results and recommendations for West African economies.

22. Are non-selected candidates notified?

Answer : *Candidates are notified of the results via press releases and individually by email.*

23. Are candidates given reasons for not being selected?

Answer : *No. Candidates are not given reasons for not being selected.*

V. Distinctions and awards

24. What are the prizes for the Award?

Answer : For the 2026 edition, the winner of the PAF will receive the following prizes and incentives:

- a cash prize of ten (10) million XOF , equivalent to approximately €15,245;
- a paid research stay at the BCEAO for a period of one (1) year;
- the publication of the award-winning study in the Revue Economique et Monétaire (REM).

In addition, an incentive prize worth five (5) million XOF (approximately €7,622) will be awarded to the author of the second-best article, which will also be published in the REM. The author will also benefit from a research stay at the BCEAO under the same conditions as the prize winner.

25. Are the winners' articles published?

Answer : *Yes! The winners' articles are published in a special issue of the BCEAO's Revue d'Economie Monétaire (REM).*

26. Do the winners have to present their research?

Answer: *Yes! Winners may be invited to present their work as part of research activities organized by the BCEAO.*

VI. Communication

27. Where can I find the winning articles from previous editions?

Answer : *The winning articles from previous editions of the Prize are published in special issues of the BCEAO's Revue d'Economie Monétaire (REM) for the year of the Prize.*

2018 Edition

<https://www.bceao.int/sites/default/files/2018-12/Revue%20%C3%A9conomique%20et%20mon%C3%A9taire%2C%20n%C2%B0%2024%2C%20d%C3%A9cembre%202018.pdf>

2014 Edition

https://www.bceao.int/sites/default/files/2017-11/revue_economique_et_monetaire_n_18_decembre_2015.pdf

2012 Edition

https://www.bceao.int/sites/default/files/2017-12/revue_economique_et_monetaire_no_12_decembre_2012.pdf

2010 Edition

https://www.bceao.int/sites/default/files/2017-12/revue_economique_et_monetaire_no_6-7-8_fev._2011_edition_speciale_.pdf

2008 Edition

<https://www.bceao.int/index.php/fr/publications/revue-economique-et-monetaire-ndeg5-juin-2009>

28. Are the winners featured on the BCEAO and COFEB websites?

Answer: *Yes! The award ceremony is broadcast on the BCEAO and COFEB websites. In addition, the BCEAO distributes a press release announcing the results of the award.*

VII. Contacts

29. Who should I contact for questions about the application submission?

Answer: *If you have any questions about submitting applications, please send a request to the BCEAO's Legal and Institutional Affairs Department at the following address: courrier.zdaji@bceao.int, clearly stating the subject of your request.*