



Description and Rules of Operation
WCTRS Young Researchers Initiative Edition-5
WCTRS-Y / Ed-5

List of the activities:

→ **Activity I:**

“WCTR-Y”: One-day Mini WCTR for young WCTRS members; to accompany each WCTR; the next is WCTR-17, Toulouse, July 2026.

→ **Activity II:**

“WCTRS PhD Students’ Grants”, for young PhD students who are members of WCTRS.

→ **Activity III:**

“WCTRS-Young Online Facility” for young WCTRS members.

Eligibility conditions:

A) **General conditions for application/participation in any of, or all, the three activities:**

1. **Fully paid members of WCTRS** for the period July 2023/July 2026. New applicants should join WCTRS for the period January 2025/July 2026.
2. Age < 35 years on the opening day of a WCTR. **This is 6 July 2026 for “WCTR-17”, Toulouse.**

B) **Additional ‘activity-specific’ conditions:**

1. **For activities I & III:** Post Graduate in transportation, Post Doctor in transportation, or full-time researcher in transport research institutions, laboratories or Universities **until at least 6 July 2026.**
2. **For Activity II:** University Postgraduates registered for PhD in transportation, **until at least 6 July 2026.**

Activity Y-I: WCTR-Y

1. **Aim:** Young transport researchers who are members of WCTRS to be trained ‘on the job’ to get acquainted with conference organisation, meet colleagues, learn from seniors, attend the main WCTR, and enjoy sound benefits from society membership.
2. **WCTR-Y is to be run totally and only** by the WCTRS young members who applied and received formal acceptance to join Y-1, under the guidance of the WCTRS Steering Committee (STC) through the WCTRS-Y Leader.
3. WCTR-Y should not be taken as an ordinary standard conference organised for young researchers. It is rather an Educational Tool for ‘on-the-job training’ of ‘young members of WCTRS’ on conference organisation and to prepare them for taking charge of future higher-level duties and activities of the society.
4. **The conference generally takes the following form:**



- Sunday before each WCTR and closing before the welcome cocktail.
 - One theme / One room / No parallel sessions.
 - 4 Sessions / 12 to 16 papers, presented by those who formally applied and received formal acceptance to participate in activity Y-I, as explained below.
 - A Closing Session organised as indicated under 'Main principles and operating rules'.
 - Participants: 30 to 120 +; depending on confirmed registration of young researchers to attend the main WCTR.
- Theme: Each of the young participants proposes three 'generic' themes. Based on the analysis of the suggested themes of all participants, the Leader of WCTRS-Y recommends one for STC approval.
- Main principles and operating rules:
- Two volunteers from STC members (or other WCTRS members), as recommended by the Leader of WCTRS-Y guide the event; Conference Co-Advisors (CCAs).
 - The process is to be managed by the WCTRS young members who applied and received formal acceptance to join Y-1, to take charge of one or more of the following tasks:
 - '1': Conference Chair (CC),
 - '2': two Conference Organising Volunteers (COVs),
 - '3': Authors of Papers (APs),
 - '4': Papers' Referees (PRs), and/or
 - '5': Sessions' Chairs (SCs).
 - Therefore, interested young members of WCTRS should formally apply through the society Website in due course by completing a unique Application Form in which they indicate, in addition to other personal information, a short CV and their preferred choices of the task(s), that they wish to participate for Y-I, from amongst those given in the above bullets, i.e., '1' to '5'. Multiple choices are allowed.
 - After examination of the Application Forms, the WCTRS-Y Leader decides the accepted Applicants and assigns the tasks among them.
 - Once selected by the WCTRS-Y Leader and approved by STC, the CC and COVs take charge of the process: asking the Applicants of Y-I who indicated a wish to write papers for Y-I, i.e., the APs, in the Application Form to submit their full papers around the generic theme, in a specified reasonable deadline (to be agreed by the WCTRS Y-I Leader), send the papers to the Applicants who indicated a wish to be PRs, preparation of draft WCTR-Y day programme, choice of SCs from amongst the Applicants who stated a wish to chair sessions, etc.
 - The submitted papers, if not single-authored, can only be co-authored if the co-author(s) is(are) from the Applicants of Y-I.
 - To ensure papers quality, the two CCAs have the final decision on the review result of the young PRs.
 - Time slot is to be allocated to the CCAs in the Closing Session of Y-I to give advice on the performance of PRs, SCs, CC and COVs,
 - A time slot will be allocated to the Leader of WCTRS-Y to give educational advice to young participants and give an overall assessment of the event.
 - Immediately after the end of the event, the CC, jointly with COVs, write a short report on the event to be submitted to the Leader of WCTRS-Y for review and approval.
 - Upon recommendation of the CCAs and the Leader of WCTRS-Y, high-quality papers can be eligible for Prizes offered in the main WCTR through Prize Sub-Committee Chair and/or for



journal publication through the Scientific Committee (SCC) Vice Chair for Publications, according to the respective rules for each case.

5. Registration and Honoraria for the Volunteers

- No registration fees for attending "WCTR-Y".
- Registration in the main WCTR is compulsory for attending and participating in WCTR-Y.
- WCTRS offers compensation honoraria of US\$ 1500 per person to the CC and each of the two COVs, to be paid after the successful end of WCTR-Y, based on a recommendation from the Leader of WCTRS-Y to the STC.

Activity II: WCTRS PhD Students' Grants

- 1. Aim:** to inspire PhD students who are members of WCTRS to compete for further transport research, to be stimulated to submit papers for the main WCTR, and to enjoy sound benefits from the membership of the society.
- 2. Types and number of grants:**
 - One WCTRS **Innovation Grant** US\$ 5000.
 - Four WCTRS **Prestige Grants**, each Euro US\$ 3000.
- 3.** The applicants must propose Transport Research topics for the Grants, which STC will approve based on the recommendation of the WCTRS-Y Leader. Topics related to the applicant's PhD thesis are allowed but not obligatory.
- 4.** The grants are supplementary, i.e., additional incentives from society offered to the winning PhD students who have already registered for a degree in universities and could receive finance from other sources (s).
- 5. Main principles and operating rules:** (others can be announced in the Call for Proposals)
 - Grants will be offered through an Application Form, which will be posted on the society's website soon.
 - Each proposal will be peer-reviewed by three referees selected by the WCTRS-Y Leader in consultation with the WCTRS-Y Advisor.
 - The WCTRS-Y Leader will analyse the peer reviewers' reports on all the submitted proposals and convey the results on the winning applicants to the STC for approval.
 - The best proposal will be granted the "Innovation Grant", while the four proposals next to the best will be granted the "Presage Grants".
 - In cases of proposals with equal merit, the younger applicant will receive priority in awarding the grants.
 - If no satisfactory proposals are submitted, STC can hold awarding the grant(s).
 - **Payment to grant holders:**
 - **Down payment:** 30% of the grant amount upon official awarding by STC.
 - **Conditioned Final payment:** 70% of the grant amount after official acceptance of a single-authored paper by the grant holder "based on the submitted research proposal and the topic of the grant" in the next WCTR (Toulouse 2026) and registration and attendance of the winning applicant, personally, of the conference. In cases when these conditions are not satisfied, as judged by the WCTRS-Y Leader, the STC shall decline this payment instalment.
 - The five grants' research papers will be presented in a Special Session in WCTR, subject to the rules of the SCC of the conference.



- As decided by the Leader of WCTRS-Y, high-quality papers based on the grants' proposals can be eligible for Prizes offered in the main WCTR via the Prize Sub-Committee Chair and/or for journal publication through the SCC Vice Chair for Publications according to the respective rules for each case.

Activity III: WCTRS Young Online Facility

1. Aim: Offering online facility for young members of WCTRS through the Website of the society as an additional benefit of membership, for example,
 - Producing Online Newsletters on which they,
 - advertise vacancies of Post-Doctoral posts in Universities and jobs for young researchers in transport research institutions and/or companies, ..., worldwide,
 - post interviews with seniors of the WCTRS committees,
 - report on Y-I activity progress, feature the winners of Y-II activity Grants, report recent news on some of the Special Interest Groups, SIGs, of the society if possible,
 - etc.
 - Establishing social media or mailing groups to facilitate the exchange of knowledge and discussions on transport research among young WCTRS members.
 - Etc., as the young members propose and agree with the WCTRS-Y Leader.
2. Two young members of WCTRS run this activity and should formally apply through the society Website in due course by completing a special Application Form in which they indicate, in addition to other personal information and a short CV, their wish and capabilities to give good input to Y-III.
3. The winning applicants will be selected by the WCTRS-Y Leader and approved by STC.
4. The WCTRS Secretariat shall provide logistic support to the volunteers.
5. WCTRS offers US\$ 1000 as honoraria for the two volunteers (each US\$ 500) to compensate for the time. This payment will be made after the successful completion of Y-III and upon the recommendation from the Leader of WCTRS-Y and approval of the STC.

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