



Call for Applications CREATE Prize

CREATE – Catholic social teaching Rome Exchange: Advanced Training Experience – starts from two basic ideas: (1) Catholic social thought (CST) is a powerful resource in the mission of the Church today, but often it needs to be more widely known and better operationalised in practical situations; (2) Rome is a centre for the development Catholic social thought; by bringing students and experts to Rome for shorter or longer stays, we can help them to improve their knowledge of CST and their practical skills in implementing it, while ensuring that they stay connected with their home region.

CREATE Prize 2024

What is the Create Prize looking for?

An original, unpublished contribution in English of between 2500 and 6000 words on Catholic Social Thought in the Central and Eastern European region. The actual topic can be chosen by the candidate. Here are some suggestions, but topics from other areas are also welcome:

Area 1: Future of CST; CST and Evangelisation

- 1.1. Did the pandemic challenge CST? How does it need to develop?
- 1.2. CST in action: using CST to guide practical action and motivate change.
- 1.3. John Paul II, a Polish Pope, classified CST as part of moral theology (*Sollicitudo rei socialis*, 41), so as part of the core teaching of the Church. How can CST be part of the Church's evangelising mission?

Area 2: Politics and CST

- 2.1 Liberal democracy is in crisis. Can CST help?
- 2.2 What could "Christian Democracy" mean today? (especially in the CEE context)
- 2.3 Migration and CST in the CEE region: the key issues and how to resolve them.

Area 3: Economics and CST

- 3.1 "Purpose-Driven Business": an evaluation from a CST perspective
- 3.2 The "Economy of Francesco": what can it offer the CEE region?
- 3.3 CST argues that private property is a "secondary natural right" (*Fratelli Tutti*, 120), dependent on the "universal destination of goods". Does this sound dangerous in a post-Communist region? How could we understand and explain it better to people who still remember, and even still suffer from, the effects of Communism?

Area 4: Technology and CST

- 4.1 CST and the Green Transition: which are the technologies that CST would favour and why?
- 4.2 CST and AI: Developing a human-centred workplace
- 4.3 What can CST offer to the formation of engineers?

Area 5: European Unity; Identity and CST

- 5.1 Christian Identity and European Identity: Overlaps and Tensions.
- 5.2 Christians need to support European unity and challenge EU policies that undermine human dignity. How?
- 5.3 Historically European Unity has been supported much more by Christians than by non-believers. What future is there for European unity in a Europe with declining numbers of believers?¹

CREATE Activities 2021-2024

CREATE programme focuses on the Central and Eastern European region and is composed of an integrated set of 5 activities:

1. Expert Council [EC]: a network of professors and experts from different Catholic Higher Education Institutions (CHEIs) who meet in Rome once a year;
2. **CREATE Prize [CP]: an annual competition for an original essay by young people applying CST to life and society in the CEE.**
3. Salamanca Process Scholarships [SP]: 1 post-doctoral scholarship for Dominican candidates (sisters and brothers) as part of the "Salamanca Process" of the Dominican Order.
4. *Laudato Si* Scholarships [LS]: 2 doctorate and 7 post-doctorate scholarships for young people from the CEE region to develop their research in their home countries and institutions, with support from FASS professors. *Laudato si* scholars will come to Rome regularly over a 1-3year period, in order to take advantage of the resources provided by the FASS and the central Catholic institutions in Rome.
5. CST Toolkit Scholarships [TX]: a semester-long programme of courses in CST (January to June) for 6 students at the masters or doctorate level.

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¹ Nelsen, B. F. and J. L. Guth (2020), "Losing Faith: Religion and Attitudes toward the European Union in Uncertain Times", *Journal of Common Market Studies*, available at: <https://www.researchgate.net/publication/342663382> (last accessed 07.12.20).



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Who is eligible to apply?

Young people (20-35) in the CEE region with a first cycle (bachelor's) degree or higher. Members of the Jury or their family members are not eligible to apply. Each applicant can make one submission only.

How to apply?

By June 30 2024 submit the required documentation into the Upload page at: <https://sites.google.com/pust.it/createprize>

- ✓ the text (in PDF or Microsoft Word),
- ✓ an updated CV (Europass format),
- ✓ a letter explaining why you wrote the text and anything else about yourself which you think might be relevant to the prize (not more than 2000 words).

If you encounter any problem with the upload function, you may submit your application by sending the required documents by email to fass@pust.it

You should also receive an e-mail confirmation of the arrival of the text within 5 working days of submission. If, for some reason you do not, please contact fass@pust.it The FASS is not responsible for responding to any entrants who provide unclear or incomplete details or for submissions that are lost or misdirected before they arrive.

All entries must be in English, although bibliographies and footnotes may contain references to materials in other languages (which would indeed be an advantage).

Who makes the decision?

A commission of 3 CST experts from Rome and from the CEE region.

What will the winner receive?

- Prize money of €3,000.00
- Travel and accommodation costs for a five-night stay in Rome in order to present the topic of the submission to the jury and to a wider group of experts, and for the prizegiving ceremony. If health conditions do not permit this visit to Rome, no extra compensation will be given.
- The publication of the submission in an appropriate journal or as part of a book, as will be agreed with the FASS.
- If funds permit, it may be possible to organise events in the candidate's home country to promote the published research.

Prizewinners may be expected to participate in other activities to promote the CREATE prize; such activities will be specified and agreed with the prizewinner at the time of the assignation of the prize.

Historical Highlights

For over ten years, the Faculty of Social Sciences (FASS) at the Pontifical University of St Thomas (PUST) has been providing financial support to students from Central and Eastern Europe (CEE).

We provide training in Catholic social teaching (CST) and in Dominican social ethics in dialogue with the main academic disciplines that help us understand modern social problems: law and international relations, sociology and psychology, economics and social communications, history and politics.

Students from the CEE who have studied with us have gone on to work in the Vatican Curia (including the Pontifical Council of Justice and Peace, Dicastery for Promoting Integral Human Development); in civil society organisations (including Caritas internationalis, national Caritas in Belarus and Ukraine); in the UN system (including the UNDP Democratisation Programme in Ukraine); in secular (state and private) and Catholic higher education (such as a lecturer in political philosophy and Catholic Social Teaching in the LCC International University in Lithuania); and have co-founded Christian-inspired political parties (in Croatia) and Christian-inspired social enterprises (in Hungary and Ukraine)

From 2017, the FASS has started to expand its activities in the region. We ran a "baseline project" to find out what Catholic Social Thought was being taught in the Catholic Higher Education Institutions (CHEI) of Central and Eastern Europe. To complement what was going on in the region, we started offering an annual summer school on CST for students and created an "Expert Council" to develop initiatives and to begin publishing research.

Our first book was published in 2020, with contributions from 7 countries of the CEE region and a preface from our Polish Rector, fr. Michał Paluch OP: *In a Different Voice: Reflections on Catholic Social Thought from and for Europe*, edited by Helen Alford OP and Marina Russo, Angelicum University Press, 2020.

The most recent books published are:

Human Flourishing: Reflections from the Catholic Tradition in Central Europe, Angelicum University Press, 2021. The book, with a preface from Marian Kuna, collects the 3 best essays from the CREATE Prize 2021 competition.

Catholic Universities of Central, Eastern and Western Europe in a Secularizing World. Experiences and Challenges, with contributions of 9 experts from 8 European countries, and a preface by Helen Alford, OP and Volodymyr Turchynovskyy. Angelicum University Press, 2022.

Catholic Social Teaching in European Institutions and Society, Angelicum University Press, 2023. The book, with a preface of Roland Ferenc Szilas, collects the 4 best essays from the CREATE Prize 2022 competition.

Standing Before the Challenges of the Future, Angelicum University Press, 2023. The book, with a preface of Martina Sr. Ana Begic, collects the 4 best essays from the CREATE Prize 2023 competition.



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How will the entries be judged?

The entries will be judged using anonymised versions of the submissions.

The judging criteria will include the following, but may be expanded if the jury sees that this is appropriate given the submissions:

- ✓ Originality of the argument
- ✓ Strength and depth of analysis
- ✓ Importance of the question considered
- ✓ Quality of the text
- ✓ Distinctiveness of the voice, both rigorous in argument and accessible to a wider audience
- ✓ Background and motivation of the author (from the CV and the Letter of Motivation)

The jury's decision is final and no correspondence will be entered into or challenge to the decision considered. If the jury considers that no submission is worthy of receiving the CREATE prize, it reserves the right not to award the prize.

Originality of writing and ideas

We are looking for new and innovative thinking which combines an acute analysis of society and societal challenges with a deep understanding of CST and is able to bring these two together in order to generate new, significant and valuable insights. Candidates may have written and published before on the topic, but the text submitted for the Prize must be new, original and previously unpublished.

Only texts that are unpublished or have not been submitted for publication elsewhere at the time of their submission for the prize will be considered. Candidates will be required to declare that the text they submit is not published or is not in the process of publication.

Data Protection / Copyright

We expect to publish the three best papers, although we reserve the right not to if we consider that we have not received three contributions of sufficient quality to publish. Authors will be asked to sign an agreement passing the copyright for the contribution to our Institution in order for us to publish it.

Deadlines

By June, 30, 2024	Deadline for the submission of the application
By July 15, 2024	Evaluation of the essay and official communication of the results
By September 1, 2024	Candidates will need to have accepted the Prize
November 2024	Event in Rome

Contacts

Candidates may address any additional request, as well their final documentation, to: fass@pust.it

Date: February, 26st 2024

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