

Testimonials from the winners in 2017 and 2018

“We thought that our research project was a good example of the kind of valorization that we do and value in our field. It was a very challenging project with several societal partners and with vulnerable people. The objective of giving people with dementia a voice and supporting their personhood, within the context of dementia care, asks for a lot of efforts and creative ways of involving them in the research process. These efforts, which we presented in the application, are part of our research DNA. I experienced the prize as a recognition for what we had achieved in this respect.” - **Aagje Swinnen, winner in 2017 (together with Ruud Hendriks, Annette Hendrikx and Ike Kamphof) with the project 'An Arts and Culture Perspective on Dementia'**

“We applied for the prize because we realized it was a good example of valorization, in the sense that we did our best to inject academic knowledge about the actual effects of a policy into the political debate.

In 2017/2018 the Dutch government was considering to increase the residence requirement for naturalization from 5 to 7 years. The reasons for this plan were more political and strategic (it was in the coalition agreement), and not so much based on knowledge about the effects of such a policy (for instance for immigrant integration outcomes), as there wasn't any knowledge about that. When the measure was about to be discussed in the Senate, we looked into the question what the effects would be. We did some analyses on our existing data (of my PhD research) and found that such a measure would likely have negative effects for labor market opportunities of immigrants.

Our goal was to inform policymakers and politicians, giving them the tools to make a decision grounded in empirics. The debate was initially very ideologically driven due to a lack of knowledge about what effects the policy would have. When we started publishing, we observed that political parties started to move. While we tried to let the results of our analyses speak largely for themselves in our articles, we also wrote blogposts in which we elaborated on our views of the implications of our findings. In this way, we tried to keep the more normative discussion of the policy change separate from the research on its outcomes.

Have our valorization efforts influenced the political decision-making? That is hard to say, but ESB mentioned our publication as one of the more influential of the year 2018, and a key element in the rejection of the proposal in the Senate.” - **Floris Peters, winner in 2018 (together with Maarten Vink and Hans Schmeets) for the project on the proposal for increasing the residence requirement for naturalization**

“For me, the prize was first and foremost recognition of the success of *soundbox MIA* (see www.stichtingaudio.nl/mia) and for the extra time I put into the valorization of my research results.

However, I have noticed that the prize also offers new opportunities and opens new doors. First of all, it provides new budget for valorization activities. I am currently using the entire prize money to expand the soundbox. Originally, soundbox MIA had a Maastricht and Venlo variant. Together with Stichting Laudio, I am currently working on getting funding for a variety of Brabant and an Amsterdam version of soundbox Mia. In this way the soundbox travels through the country, which offers the opportunity to communicate the research results throughout the Netherlands.

In addition, I have noticed that the valorization prize increases the chances for receiving new funding. For foundations and external funders, the prize is an indication that the project is important and successful, which makes them more interested in investing in the valorization projects. Finally, receiving an honorable mention looks good on your resume, especially if you are an early career researcher as I am. Since valorization is becoming increasingly important for obtaining research grants, the prize gives you a good opportunity to distinguish yourself from others" - **Jolien Makkinga, honorable mention in 2018 for her project Soundbox MIA (Soundbox for elderly people)**