



GESELLSCHAFT
DEUTSCHER CHEMIKER

Call for applications for the

2026 Mario Markus Prize for Ludic Science

“Ludic” is derived from the Latin word “ludens”, which means playing.

With its new Mario Markus Prize for Ludic Science, the GDCh wants to recognise a scientific work in the field of natural science that is “playful”. The term “playful” is used here to designate discoveries that arose from research that was undertaken not with any specific application in mind, but simply out of curiosity about the natural world. For more information and some examples of “ludic” science, go to www.gdch.de/mariomarkus.

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The prize

The prize, which has a value of € 10 000 plus travel expenses, will be awarded at a special ceremony.

Application

Applications must include a short cover letter, a curriculum vitae and at least one publication describing the work, which should have been published in a peer-reviewed journal in 2020 or later. Nominations should be submitted by 31 May 2026 via www.gdch.app/awards.