María Pilar Alonso Abad awarded the XXII International Prize Grupo Compostela–Xunta de Galicia

- The jury highlighted his research and academic career, linked to the dissemination of cultural heritage and the values of the Camino de Santiago

Santiago de Compostela, 25 May 2018 – The jury of the XXII Grupo Compostela-Xunta de Galicia International Prize, which met yesterday in Santiago de Compostela, decided to award the honour to the academic and researcher María Pilar Alonso Abad for her contribution to the dissemination of the values of the Camino de Santiago as a lecturer and her unique research on its cultural heritage. Emphasizing also its national and international projection, given its youth.

The candidature, presented by the University of Burgos, was supported by more than 30 institutions and universities. Among them, the Consejo Superior de Investigaciones Científicas, the Junta de Castilla y León, Patrimonio Nacional and the Asociación de Municipios del Camino de Santiago.

When informing her of the decision, she said that she felt "honoured to share this award with important personalities and institutions, distinguished for their work in favour of society and culture". In this sense, she said that she "will continue to work for culture and in defence of the values represented by the prize", in order to continue to "deserve this recognition".

The award ceremony will take place on 6 September within the framework of the XXIV General Assembly of the Compostela Group of Universities, which this year will be held at the University of Salamanca (Spain). At this ceremony, he will receive a golden shell, symbol of the Compostela Group of Universities, and 6,000 euros (gross amount).

Profile of the awardee

María del Pilar Alonso Abad is coordinator of the Marie Curie European project in Archaeology and Cultural Heritage, member of the Ernst-Herzfeld-Gesellschaft Society for the Study of Islamic Heritage and member of the International Scientific Committee of the Association of Municipalities on the Camino de Santiago. Author of works such as 'El Real Monasterio de Las Huelgas de Burgos' and 'Las Vidrieras de la Catedral de Burgos'.

Graduate in Philosophy and Arts from the University of Navarra and in Humanities from the University of Burgos. Doctor in Humanities with a specialization in Art History from this Castilian-Leonese university and professor of this department at the academic institution.

Members of the jury 2018

The meeting of the jury of the XXII International Prize Grupo Compostela-Xunta de Galicia, was chaired by the General Secretary of Culture of Xunta de Galicia, Anxo Lorenzo Suárez, acting in delegation of the Regional Minister for Culture, Education and University Development, Román Rodríguez González. The following authorities were also part of the Jury:
The General Secretary for Universities of Xunta de Galicia, José Alberto Díez de Castro.
The President of the Compostela Group of Universities, Marek Kręglewski.
The Rector of the University of Santiago de Compostela, Juan Viaño Rey.
The Rector of the Pontifical Catholic University of Peru, Marcial Rubio Correa.
The Rector of the University of Leon, Juan Francisco García Marín.

The Executive Secretary of the Compostela Group of Universities, María Teresa Carballeira Rivera, acted as a secretary to the jury.

International Prize Grupo Compostela-Xunta de Galicia

The International Prize Grupo Compostela-Xunta de Galicia, since its creation in 1997, has recognized individuals and institutions from different fields. In previous editions, the prize has recognized the work of personalities such as Jacques Santer (1997), Vaclav Havel (1998), Mohamed AlBaradei (2010), the College of Europa (2012) and Marcelino Oreja Aguirre (2017).

Compostela Group of Universities

The Compostela Group of Universities (CGU) is a non-profit international organisation that works for fostering cooperation and promoting dialogue in all areas of higher education. The GCU took its first steps in 1994 and since its creation, it has grown to unite more than 60 universities from all over the world. All the pilgrims of the Compostela Group of Universities share the values of cooperation and integration developed around the Camino de Santiago.