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70th anniversary of the Council of Europe

Essay Writing Competition

General guidelines for the organisation at national level

These guidelines are not exhaustive. They are intended to assist member States in the organisation at national level of an essay writing competition and to invite a consistent approach across 47 countries.

- Theme** “Imagining the European of the future?” Created in 1949, the Council of Europe counts 47 countries covering 840 million people. Its core values and mission are Human Rights – Democracy – Rule of Law. Against this background, the general title (in the form of a question) is intended to spur reflection about the common thread between these countries and people and where the writers would like them to be in the future. The title also leaves the possibility for more complex treatment.
- Length** Essays should have a **maximum of 1000 words**.
- Language(s)** The authorities in each member State should decide in which language and form submissions can be made. Where handwritten submissions are allowed, the winning essay should also be provided in a typed format (see section *winners* below).
- Participants** Young people living in Europe born in the XXI century: 14 to 18 years old
- Organisation** The competition should be **launched officially** by the appropriate national authorities. Schools and other relevant institutions should be informed through the competent ministries and agencies e.g. ministries of education, national cultural institutions, etc. The competition should be as widely publicised as possible, e.g. by posting the competition and its details on relevant websites with links to the Council of Europe website and the 70th anniversary section.
- Jury** A jury should be formed at national level to receive and assess submissions in order to select a winning national essay bearing in mind the proposed theme and the fact that the competition forms part of the 70th anniversary of the Council of Europe. The jury could include members of the national delegations to the Council of Europe Parliamentary Assembly and Congress and other relevant personalities.
- Winners** The above-mentioned jury will declare the national winner.
The Permanent Representation of each participating member State will communicate the name of the national winner together with the winning essay in its original version, a translation in English or in French, a photo and contact details of the national winner to Council of Europe Protocol **by 30 June 2019**. Therefore it is of the utmost importance that the national

selection procedure be completed in time to ensure that the winning essay is translated and transmitted to the Council of Europe before this deadline.

Prize

Each national winner will be awarded a **diploma** by the Council of Europe and **invited to receive it at the 70th anniversary commemorative event in Strasbourg in October 2019.**

In addition, other prizes may be decided upon and awarded at national level.

Disclaimers

Participants should confirm in writing to the organising national authority that the work is entirely their own.

In addition the winner will authorise the Council of Europe to reproduce in full or in part the winning essay in its original and translated versions.