



Writing competition

"So similar, so different, so European."

Did you know that, as a result of successive enlargements, the European Union (EU) is the largest economy in the world, with more than 500 million citizens? It has more weight internationally than ever before.

The EU's enlargement policy supports the membership preparations of those European countries which aspire to join the EU. Thereby it helps to make Europe a safer place, and promotes democracy and fundamental freedoms, while consolidating the rule of law in the aspiring countries.

Croatia, the latest country to join the EU, became the Union's 28th Member State in 2013. Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Iceland (negotiations with Iceland have been put on hold following the decision of the Icelandic government), Kosovo*, Montenegro, Serbia and Turkey are candidates or potential candidates. Some of them are already in the negotiation process or waiting to start, while others have the prospect of membership when they are prepared.

The European Commission is keen to learn more about what you think:

- What is your experience in an enlarged European Union?
- How can the enlarged European Union meet the challenges of the future?

Share your views on one or both questions in an article (max 1 000 words) and win great prizes!

* This designation is without prejudice to positions on status, and is in line with UNSCR 1244/1999 and the ICJ Opinion on the Kosovo Declaration of Independence.



RULES

Eligibility

1. The competition is open to citizens of the 28 EU Member States.
2. Participants must be aged 18 to 25 years at the deadline for submission.
3. Participants must be a resident of an EU Member State.
4. You may submit your entry in any official language of the European Union (see: http://europa.eu/about-eu/facts-figures/administration/index_en.htm).
5. All texts must be clearly linked to the theme of the competition.

Entry rules

6. The competition is open to those aged 18-25. The jury will request verification of citizenship and age before prizes are awarded (a copy of a valid passport or ID).
7. Each participant may submit only one entry to this competition. Only original work can be accepted. Once submitted, the entry is final.
8. Entries can only be submitted in electronic format via an online application form. A link to this form will be hosted on DG Enlargement's website via the competition webpage. All supporting documentation must also be sent electronically.
9. The article should be a maximum of 1 000 words (including title, headings and sub-headings)
10. Each participant must complete all the required fields in the online application form.

When and how to submit your entry?

11. The deadline for submissions is **27 February 2015 at midday (CET)**. The entries must be submitted via the online application form.
12. No entries will be returned to competition participants.



Copyright

13. The participant must be the author and holder of the copyright and the moral rights of their entry. Plagiarism, which includes the unauthorised use of the language and thoughts of another author and the representation of them as one's own, will result in disqualification.
14. Copyright of each entry remains with the author, but the authors of the winning entries must allow the European Union to publish their work and use it for any purpose without royalties. The applicants will be asked in the online application form to tick a box to agree to a formal transfer of these rights.

Evaluation

15. All entries will be evaluated at the national level in one of the official EU languages of that country.
16. Subject to a positive evaluation, the national juries will select one entry each as the winner.
17. The work and deliberations of the juries are confidential and their decisions are final.
18. The prize winners and the unsuccessful entrants will be informed.

Prizes

19. The national winners will be awarded with a three-day visit to Brussels, Belgium, at the end of May 2015. The winning articles will also be published on the European Commission's website and will be offered to leading national media for publication.
20. The exact dates and programme of the visit will be confirmed once the winners have been chosen.
21. The following costs related to the visit to Brussels will be covered for each winner:
 22. An economy-class roundtrip flight or roundtrip first-class train travel to Brussels from the winner's place of residence in one of the 28 EU Member States, meals and accommodation, local transportation costs in Brussels, and admission to organised activities.



23. The winners are responsible for any other expenses involved with their visit to Brussels.

Data protection

24. All personal information gathered during registration will be held by the European Commission's Directorate-General for Enlargement, which will use the data solely for the purpose of the competition.

The European Commission is committed to user privacy. The policy on "protection of individuals with regard to the processing of personal data by the Community institutions" is based on Regulation (EC) N° 45/2001 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 18 December 2000.

The names of the winners and their works will be published, and there may be media coverage of the winners' visit to Brussels.

Disqualification

25. Entries will be disqualified which are: violent, hateful, sexist, racist, or in any way offensive; which contain any material and/or statement which violates or infringes in any way upon the rights of others.

**Submission of entry implies acceptance of all rules.
Failure to comply with the rules may result in disqualification.**