

EU competition for school classes of age 16+

Who are we?

The Authority for European Political Parties and European Political Foundations (www.appf.europa.eu, the “Authority”) is an independent body of the European Union tasked by law with carrying out registration and verification procedures, controlling compliance and - where necessary - imposing sanctions on European political parties and European political foundations. The Authority also contributes to democratic awareness at European level by ensuring visibility of key documentation with respect to European political parties and European political foundations. Additionally, the Authority contributes to securing the integrity of European elections against misuse of personal data. In all its fields of activity, the Authority works in close cooperation with other EU institutions and bodies, in particular the European Parliament, as well as with competent national authorities.

What are we offering?

The Authority is organising a competition for school classes in the European Union.

1) Eligibility:

School classes composed of pupils of at least 16 years of age from schools across the European Union are eligible to compete. The competition takes place between entire school classes from different schools under the guidance of at least one and maximum two teachers per participating school class¹.

2) Topic:

EU Democracy and digital transformation: What are the challenges and opportunities for democratic processes?

3) Requested form of submissions:

- **Essay** prepared by the class and addressing the above topic (maximum 5 pages and 15,000 characters including spaces) in an official language of the European Union **AND**
- A short **video presentation** (maximum length 3 minutes) of the proposals contained in the essay in an official language of the European Union, involving the entire class.

Note: We reserve the right to disregard submissions that do not fulfil these conditions.

¹ Only one application per school and per school class is possible. A school class defines as one entire grade-level group of pupils. If there are parallel grade-level groups of pupils that follow the same overall studies programme in the same school, each of them is one school class (but only one of them can apply). All pupils of the applicant school class must be involved in the project. Sub-groups of a school class following an optional course, or sub-groups of a school class having been selected to follow a specific curriculum based on individual merit, are not considered a school class.

How will we proceed?

1) Pre-registration:

- **Deadline for pre-registration: 15 October 2024** by email to application@appf.europa.eu.
- Please identify the applicant class, as well as the name of the school of which this class is a part. Please provide a contact email and postal address. One phone number of a teacher should be provided to enable any logistical contact that may be required.
- In order for the Authority to reserve translation capacities, please also inform the Authority in which official language of the Union your submission will be (you do not need to give advance information on the content of your later submission at this stage).

Note: We reserve the right to disregard applications that do not fulfil these conditions.

2) Submission

- **Deadline for submission: 30 November 2024** by email to application@appf.europa.eu. Essay text (in .docx or .pdf format) and video files may be provided either by attachment to the email, or by means of a link to a cloud storage service hosted in the European Union².

Note: Submissions that are incomplete or received after that date will not be considered.

3) Selection process:

- The Authority will first assess eligibility and compliance with formal requirements of the submissions, if needed in cooperation with Member States of origin of submissions.
- A jury set up by the Authority will then propose an assessment against selection criteria of all submissions that were found eligible and compliant with formal requirements. However, depending on the number of participating classes in each Member State, the Authority may previously ask Member States to propose a list of the 5 best submissions from their jurisdiction, in which case only those would be presented to the jury for assessment. The Authority will provide secretarial services to the jury.
- Selection criteria:
 - The submissions have to address the topic above. Note that this topic includes, but is not limited to, the area of work of the Authority.
 - Your own reflections are essential - the contribution of future voters can help shape the European Union! Do not hesitate to be creative, while keeping in mind the practical effects! Hence, while you are allowed to use any publicly available sources for your research, the final submission must be your own creative work, *i.e.* no copy-paste or AI-generated text can be accepted.
 - It is helpful if you distinguish proposals for the short term and for the long term.
 - Both essay and video count toward overall assessment, weighted 50% each.
- Taking into account the proposals of the jury, the Authority will designate one winning submission. The Authority may choose to publish the winning submission.

What is the award for the winning class?

- Visit and guided tour of one of the European Parliament's places of work (Brussels or Strasbourg, to be determined in light of parliamentary sitting calendars).
- Meetings with European personalities at that occasion, before the end of 2025 at a time to be chosen by the Authority, including travel cost, one night accommodation reimbursed and daily expenses allowance for the winning school class (max. 30 pupils, plus max. two teachers)³.

How will personal data be protected?

Personal data are processed in accordance with Regulation (EU) 2018/1725 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 23 October 2018 on the protection of natural persons with regard to the processing of personal data by the Union institutions, bodies, offices and agencies and on the free movement of such data (Official Journal of the European Union L 295, 21 November 2018, p. 39–98). Applicants are invited to consult the privacy statement annexed to this competition notice, which explains how the Authority processes personal data in relation to the procedure.

³ For detailed information on the amounts and reimbursement procedures, please refer to the Authority's rules on reimbursement on experts' travel and accommodation costs and payments of a daily allowance, which will be applied *mutatis mutandis* to the winning class' pupils and accompanying teacher(s): <https://www.appf.europa.eu/appf/en/home/legal-background>.



ANNEX TO THE SCHOOL CLASS COMPETITION NOTICE: **PRIVACY STATEMENT**

The purpose of this Privacy Statement is to set out how the Authority processes and stores personal data in relation to applicants in the context of school competition procedure organised by the Authority. It also aims to inform applicants of their rights in accordance with the provisions set out in Regulation (EU) No 2018/1725 of the European Parliament and the Council of 23 October 2018¹ (the "Regulation").

The processing of personal data of applicants is necessary for selecting the best submitted product in the competition procedure organised by the Authority. The processing of personal data received as part of a competition procedure is lawful under Article (5)(a) and (d) of the Regulation, since the competition is part of the performance of tasks carried out in the public interest and in any event participation is voluntary².

The data processing operations in relation to applications submitted as a result of the published competition notice are mainly conducted by staff of the Authority dealing with human resources. This staff is responsible for the publication of competition notices, the reception of applications, and the onward transmission of files to the relevant selection boards/juries and decision-makers.

1. What personal data is collected, for what purpose and through which technical means?

All applicants' personal data will be collected and processed only to the extent necessary to process applications for the competition procedure published by the Authority as well as further along the process in case of successful applications. In accordance with Article 4(1)(b) of the Regulation, such data will not be processed for any other purposes or used in support of measures or decisions regarding any particular individual.

A significant amount of personal data needs to be processed as part of any competition procedure for which an applicant has expressed interest as well as further along the process in case of successful applications. Such data will generally include:

¹ Regulation (EU) No 2018/1725 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 23 October 2018 on the protection of natural persons with regard to the processing of personal data by the Union institutions, bodies, offices and agencies and on the free movement of such data: <https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/PDF/?uri=CELEX:32018R1725&qid=1688653398670>

² The Authority declines responsibility if schools or teachers direct pupils to participate, as this is not required by the Authority.

- a) the pictures and voice of pupils and supervising teacher(s), as well as all supervising teacher(s) names and their contact details;
- b) only for the winner class: all pupils' and teachers' names, as well as pictures and voice material taken at the award ceremony; the successful submission;
- c) additional information contained within any registration for application for the competition. This data is important in terms of establishing an applicant's eligibility to apply for the competition published by the Authority.

For applicants from school classes, the processing of an applicant's file for a particular competition may also require other documentation which will be used by the staff of the Authority dealing with events, only for the purpose of the competition procedure and will be destroyed on the conclusion of the competition procedure and possible award ceremony.

Some relevant personal data received through the applications process may be retained for historical or statistical purposes after competition procedures have been completed. For the purpose of generating such statistics, a record of applications submitted will be stored. Access to any information will be strictly limited.

Please note that the responsibility for receiving consent (for minors from their parents/legal guardians) remains with the applicants' teacher(s) (a template will be provided by the Authority upon request). The absence of consent of individual pupils does not preclude the remaining class from participation in the competition, provided that personal data of the individual pupils concerned are not transferred to the Authority.

2. Who has access to your information and to whom is it disclosed?

Throughout the competition process, personal data provided by the applicants is accessible to staff of the Authority dealing with events. This staff receives and logs all applications and verifies whether an applicant is eligible for the competition in question.

A summary of applications received in relation to a particular competition procedure, together with copies of applications, is circulated following the closing date for applications to the relevant juries and decision-makers.

The Authority applies a policy that applicants' personal data must be processed, stored and eventually erased in accordance with the provisions set out in the Regulation. Any personal data submitted by applicants may be processed by recipients "only for the purposes for which they were transmitted".

3. How is your personal data protected and safeguarded?

The data collected and stored in relation to applications for competition procedures is only accessible to the staff at the Authority.

4. How long is personal data kept?

Paper and electronic files containing personal data (applications, etc.) kept by the Authority in relation to applications submitted will be stored for a maximum of 7 years after the completion of the competition procedure. After this period, the file(s) will be deleted and/or destroyed. A record of applications submitted will be kept anonymised by the Authority for statistical purposes (see point 1 above).

5. How can applicants verify, modify or delete their personal data?

Applicants have a right of access at any time to information about them used in relation to an application, providing that the confidentiality of the deliberations and decision-making of selection boards/juries is safeguarded, along with the rights of other applicants. Applicants also have a right to express their own position, to object or to complain.

Should applicants wish to access, modify, block or delete any personal data in this context a request should be sent to the attention of the Director of the Authority. Requests should be sent to the e-mail or postal address listed under point 6 (below).

In view of ongoing competition procedures, applicants who have submitted an application are strongly encouraged to rectify or modify any relevant personal data that may be out of date. Applicants should be aware that a request to delete certain elements of personal data essential to evaluating and processing an application for a competition notice might have a bearing on whether or not an application can be processed properly.

Identification data can be rectified by the data subject at any time during the competition procedure. Since applicants must fulfil the eligibility criteria for the competition procedure in question at the latest on the date when its publication closes, applicants may only rectify categories of data relating to their eligibility up until the closing date for the submission of applications.

6. Contact Information

Any question or request concerning personal data processed in relation to applications for competition notices in the Authority, and the rights of applicants in this context, should be sent to the following addresses:

Email:
application@appf.europa.eu

Postal address:
Authority for European Political Parties and European Political Foundations
For the attention of Mr Pascal SCHONARD (Director)
Rue Wiertz 60
1047 Brussels
Belgium

7. Comments and Recourse

In respect of matters relating to the application of the Regulation, comments can be addressed to the Data Protection Officer of the Authority.

Contact:
Data-Protection@europarl.europa.eu

In accordance with the Regulation, any complaints should be addressed to the European Data Protection Supervisor (website: <https://edps.europa.eu/en>).

Contact: edps@edps.europa.eu

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